

Upgradation of airports for international operations

1133. SHRI BHUPINDE RSINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has accorded approval to construct new international airports in the country during the last three years including the current year;
- (b) if so, the number of such airports location-wise; and
- (c) the details of other airports which are to be considered for up-gradation for international operation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years, Government of India (GoI) has granted 'in-principle' approval for setting up of a Greenfield international airport at Dholera in Gujarat. Besides, GoI has granted 'site clearance' for setting up of Greenfield international airports at Bhiwadi (Alwar) in Rajasthan and Bhogapuram (Vijaynagaram) in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Development and upgradation of domestic airports to international standards depends upon various factors including traffic potential, demand from airlines for operation of international flights as well as the availability of the facilities like adequate Runway length to cater to medium capacity long-range aircraft or equivalent type of aircraft, scope for extending the runway length further as per future requirements, availability of ground lighting facilities and Instrument Landing System for operation of aircrafts at night and availability of Customs, Immigration, Health and Animal and Plant Quarantine services.

Construction of new airports

1134. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the projects for construction of new airports taken up during the last three years;
- (b) the number of these projects that have been completed;
- (c) whether Indian airports are lagging behind international airports in terms of the existing infrastructure and facilities available therein;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the current status of the Kanpur International Airport along with the details of domestic and International flights being operated/proposed to be operated from this airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) During the last three years, Government of India (GoI) has granted 'in-principle' approval for setting up of a Greenfield international airport at Dholera in Gujarat. Besides, GoI has granted 'site clearance' for setting up of Greenfield airports at Bhiwadi (Alwar) in Rajasthan and at three locations of Andhra Pradesh, namely, Bhogapuram (Vijaynagaram), Dagadarthi (Nellore) and Oravakallu (Kurnool).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Till the last decade, the airports in India were lacking the necessary infrastructure facilities and services at par with the international standards. However, with the implementation of Public Private Partnership projects at both Brownfield and Greenfield airports and various initiatives taken by the Airports Authority of India to modernize its airports, the infrastructure at Indian airports has improved at par with international standards. Presently, number of Indian airports feature in the top ranks in the global ranking published by the Airport Council International.

(e) The construction work at the Kanpur airport is at advance stage of completion and trial landing was successfully completed on 29.02.2016.

Shifting of Alliance Air base from Kolkata

1135. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Alliance Air is planning to shift its base from Kolkata; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. Alliance Air has no plans to shift its base from Kolkata.

(b) Question does not arise.

Shortage of Air Traffic Controllers

1136. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) the details thereof and the reasons therefor;