

(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;

- (b) whether Government had engaged any consultancy firm to study the long term manpower in the country to manage air traffic;
- (c) if so, requirements of ATCOs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether the study has been completed and report submitted;
- (e) if so, the details of the report and the time by which the report is likely to be implemented; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to meet the manpower shortage of ATCOs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has conducted a study on long term manpower requirement through Washington Consultancy Group (WCG), USA, a global consultant. The consultant has conducted the study and submitted its report. As per this report, the requirement of ATCOs would be 3599 upto the year 2020. The report of WCG was reviewed by AAI and replaced it with ATM Staffing Policy and Guidelines in November, 2015 which is implemented in a phased manner and inducted 169 ATCOs in 2015.

(f) In order to meet the current and future requirements *i.e.* to cope up with the growing requirement of airspace and Air Traffic Management, the Airports Authority of India Board has approved creation of additional posts of ATCOs in various grades.

Development of regional airports

1137. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the new Civil Aviation Policy envisages emphasis on regional connectivity of airlines;
- (b) if so, the details of States where Ministry is planning to develop airports, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the details of States which have provided land for developing regional airports and progress made by the Ministry to construct airports in such lands?