

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are many such airports in the States which are not being used and can be used to increase regional connectivity and the goal of connecting the main cities/places of the States through air service can be achieved in less time and cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Draft Civil Aviation Policy envisages to connect unserved/unconnected airports/airstrips by providing necessary incentives.

(c) and (d) There are several airports where there are no scheduled operations at present, of which 160 belong to the State Government, 30 to Airports Authority of India and others to Defence and private sector.

Development of new Airport at Chakulia in Jharkhand

1140. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) is proposing to develop a new airport at Chakulia (situated in Purbi Singhbhum District in Jharkhand State) which is not an appropriate place as it is 30 km. away from NH-33, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether AAI is aware that a big airstrip used in World War-II is available at Dhalbhumgarh which is very much suitable for establishment of an Airport and is near to NH-33 that connects Odisha; and

(c) considering the above reasons, why does not AAI change its proposal of establishment of a new Airport at Dhalbhumgarh instead of Chakulia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) have an airport at Chakulia, which is presently non-operational.

(b) Yes Sir. The airstrips at Dhalbhumgarh belongs to Ministry of Defence.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.