

working at existing airport of Delhi and Mumbai from 2 to 3 years. The Joint Venture Company will be required to absorb a minimum of net 40% of the existing employees at these airports. The employees who are not absorbed by the Joint Venture Companies would revert to Airports Authority of India.

(d) Yes, Sir.

### **Touts at airports**

1317. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that touts and criminals, in the garb of taxi drivers, are operating with impunity at the International Airports in the country, particularly in the national capital with the connivance of police and airport staff; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to rid the airports of the touts and other anti-social elements operating at the airports, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The information will be collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Air service from Lohgoan Airport**

†1318. SHRI BALWANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the civil flight from Pune based Lohgoan Airport is proposed to be discontinued;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether there is any plan to develop new aerodrome near Chakan (at the Khed Tehsil) Distt. Pune;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(d) if so, whether Government have fixed any time-bound programme and earmarked funds therefor; and

(e) whether it would be an international airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has appointed Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MICD) as a nodal agency for this project. Airports Authority of India is providing technical consultancy services in finalization of site preparation of master plan and detailed project report. Approval has been given to Government of Maharashtra for setting up of an airport of international standards at Chakan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) A decision will be taken after completion of airport depending upon international traffic potential and requirement from Airlines.

#### **Air services from Madhya Pradesh**

†1319. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Central Government to provide air service from Madhya Pradesh to South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present arrangement for air services to link Madhya Pradesh with South India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is no direct air link between Madhya Pradesh and South India. Passengers in Madhya Pradesh desirous of travelling to stations in South India can avail the flights from Delhi and Mumbai.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.