

the route dispersal guidelines. The direction issued by DGCA on low visibility period operations is effective as on date which also need to be accounted for operation to/from Delhi during Winter/fog season.

New airport at Karaikal in Puducherry

153. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that Government has approved for setting up of a new private airport at Karaikal in Puducherry and also acquired nearly 300 acres of land;

(b) whether it is also a fact that necessary approvals from the Ministry and also environmental and other clearances from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change have been obtained;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for delay in starting the work of the airport; and

(d) what is the estimated cost of the project and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India/Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted 'in-principle' approval to M/s Karaikal Airport Pvt. Ltd. for setting up of a Greenfield airport at Karaikal in Puducherry. Out of the total 360 acres of land required for the project, 237 acres have been acquired by the developer. Out of the remaining 123 acres, the matter is *sub-judice* in respect of 110 acres of land for the last 8 years.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The reason for delay in starting of the work of airport as cited by the developer is because of pending court case relating to the land and difficulties in raising finances for the project. On account of the same, the private developer is not forthcoming with the estimated cost and a firm date for completion of the project.

Concessional air tickets

†154. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to construct smaller airports for the benefit of common people, if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.