

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.

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is going to provide air tickets at concessional rates for the benefit of passengers; and

(c) the names of the new airports considered to be set up in Bihar, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in the newly approved National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016 as available on the portal of the Ministry have provision for promotion of regional Connectivity by way of revival of un-served and under-served airports/airstrips. Revival of such airports is to be 'demand driven', depending on firm demand from the airlines operators and where the State Government agrees to provide various concessions envisaged in the Policy.

(b) As per the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, MoCA will target an indicative airfare of ₹ 2500 per passenger approximately, indexed to inflation, for a significant part of the capacity of the aircraft for a distance of 500 Kms to 600 Kms on RCS routes (equivalent to about one hour flight).

(c) MoCA has not received any proposal for development of new airports in Bihar either from the State Government or from any private party as per the Greenfield Airport Policy.

Loss making airports in the country

†155. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airports in the country that incurred losses in the year 2014-15, State-wise and amount-wise;

(b) the reasons for the losses and the details of the steps taken by Government to prevent the recurrence of such losses in future;

(c) whether Government has shut-down any airport during the last two years, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is formulating any scheme for the privatisation of such airports or for developing them under the PPP mode, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The State-wise details of the Airports Authority of India

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.