

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The Gannavaran Airport (Vijayawada) is suitable for operations of A-320 type of aircraft in all weather conditions and the existing runway has a length of 2286m X 45m, the terminal building has the capacity for 300 peak hour passengers at a time, apron to park two ATR-72 and four A-320 type of aircraft, Instrument landing System and other facilities for night operations. Various other facilities such as free passenger baggage trolleys, Wi-Fi, tea/coffee vending machines, ATMs, Car rental and VIP lounges, etc. are also available for convenience of the passengers.

(b) and (c) Declaration of an airport as International Airport depends upon various factors such as traffic potential, demand from airlines for operation of international flights, availability of Customs, Immigration, Health and Animal and Plant Quarantine services. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the upgradation of infrastructural facilities at Gannavaram Airport to cater to international operations. However, no airlines have shown their interests for international operations to/from Gannavaram Airport so far.

(d) The security arrangements at Gannavaram Airport has been provided as per the guidelines of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

Promotion to regional connectivity scheme

159. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to restrict airfares being charged by the airlines between cities having travel time less than one hour in regional connectivity scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and .

(c) the steps taken by Government in Civil Aviation sector to promote region connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Government has approved National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 which *inter-alia* envisages Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). The scheme is implemented by revival of un-served and under-served airports/routes and 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 of flight).

(c) The Government has recently broadened the scope of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) by including States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in Category-II routes.

Concession on many heads in New Aviation Policy

†160. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States are expected to be provided concessions under various heads in the New Aviation Policy;

(b) if so, whether the States were consulted before approving the New Aviation Policy so that no hassles are faced in implementing the same; and

(c) the airports proposed to be renovated/upgraded under the plan for the implementation of the New Aviation Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The draft National Civil Aviation Policy was put in public domain for stakeholders' comments. On the basis of feedback received from various stakeholders, including various State Governments, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016. The Policy provides for promoting 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 airline operators and where the State Government concerned agrees to provide various concessions envisaged in the Policy.

No fly zone over Tirumala Hills

161. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh to make seven hills area of Tirumala-Tirupathi as no fly zone, if so; the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether Government is considering to make Tirumala Hills as no fly zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested declaration of area covered by the Holy temple of Lord Sri Venkateshwara

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.