

Practitioners of yoga in the country

†868. SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that all citizens practicing yoga and naturopathy are becoming healthier;
- (b) whether the number of yoga practitioners has increased as compared to earlier times;
- (c) whether yoga remains confined to the urban areas only or it has been taken to the rural areas also; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that yoga teachers have been appointed in the country, if so, the number of States where this kind of Institutional mechanism is being operated and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yoga and Naturopathy systems are seen to have positive impact on the health and well-being of those who practice them regularly. Many life style and other diseases can be well managed by the regular practice of Yoga.

(b) No such survey have been carried out.

(c) No.

Yoga has been practiced in different parts of the world irrespective of whether rural or urban area. Recently, the Ministry of AYUSH through Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), an autonomous organization under this Ministry has implemented One Month Yoga Camp Programme in all the districts of the country to celebrate International Day of Yoga from 21st May to 21st June, 2016 which indicates that people from rural or urban areas have attended this Yoga camp in large number.

(d) Ministry of AYUSH does not appoint yoga teachers. However, the Ministry facilitates the appointment of such teachers in the private and public sectors through its Scheme for Voluntary Certification of Yoga Professionals. First phase of the scheme to certify yoga teachers was launched on June 22, 2015. The scheme is being operated by the Quality Council of India (QCI), an apex quality facilitation and accreditation body, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Government of India has approved the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National AYUSH Mission (NAM) which, *inter-alia*, envisages better access to AYUSH services including Yoga and strengthening of AYUSH educational institutions.

Expansion of regional reach by Air India

869. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India will expand its regional reach to connect new cities;

(b) if so, the details of new connectivity which have been started by Air India during the last two years;

(c) the proposals from the State Governments which have been received by the National carrier therein; and

(d) the details of the present status of the new airports which have been started during the last two years and the forthcoming plan proposals of Government therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Air India currently operates to 52 destinations in the country and plans to expand its regional reach to connect new cities subject to improvement in availability of resources and financial viability.

Details of new connectivity started by Air India during last two years is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The details of proposals received from the State Governments is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) In the last two years in-principle approval has been given for construction of Greenfield airport at Dholera, Gujarat; site clearances given for constructing Greenfield airport at Dagaderthi in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh; Bhogapuram near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh; Oravakallu in Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh and Kotkasim Tehsil in Alwar District, Rajasthan.