

7. Kolkata/Guwahati/Lilabari/Guwahati/Kolkata-5 freq/week
8. Kolkata/Guwahati/Kolkata-4 freq/week

Inking of Rafale deal with French Government

*67. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has inked a deal with French Government for supply of 36 Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Air Force;
- (b) by when the delivery of 36 Rafale fighter jets is going to be effective; and
- (c) the total number of Rafale fighter jets to be supplied under the new contract with the details of the terms and conditions of the new deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) Government decided to procure 36 Rafale aircraft from the Government of France to meet the critical operational necessity of fighter aircraft in the IAF. An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) has been signed with the French Government on 23rd September, 2016.

The deliveries of the aircraft will commence in September, 2019 and will be completed in April, 2022.

The Rafale aircraft will be equipped with advanced Beyond Visual Range Air to Air METEOR Missiles, short and medium range MICA Air to Air Missiles and precision guided Air to Ground SCALP Missiles, which will enhance the capability of the Air Force and also provide strategic deterrence *vis-a-vis* our adversaries.

The terms of the procurement include five years' Performance Based Logistics (PBL) with options for additional seven year extension. The terms also provide for 50 years' product support by the manufacturer. The procurement includes a provision for offsets of 50 per cent of the value of the Aircraft and Weapons Package (excluding the value of PBL and Simulator Annual Maintenance).

Resumption of international flights from Amritsar Airport

*68. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee (SGRDJ) International Airport, Amritsar which was once running into profit is now running into losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to start direct international flights

from SGRDJ International Airport, Amritsar to provide connectivity to various destinations like London, Toronto, Vancouver, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand etc. where a majority of the Punjabi community reside; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Amritsar Airport has not been profitable for several years. The details of loss at Amritsar Airport for last 15 years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Indian carriers are free to mount services from any point in India including Amritsar airport to foreign destinations as per the respective bilateral air services arrangements whereas foreign airlines can operate only on designated point of call available under the bilateral arrangements. However, actual operations are always guided by commercial judgement of airlines.

At present following airlines are operating international flights at Amritsar Airport:-

Airlines	City connected	Flights/week
Air India	Birmingham	07
Air India Express	Dubai	07
Uzbekistan Airlines	Tashkent	02
Malindo Air	Kuala Lumpur	07
Qatar Airways	Doha	07
Turkmenistan Airlines	Ashgabat	05
Flyscoot	Singapore	04
Spicejet	Dubai	07

Statement

*Details of profit/loss for the financial year 2001-02 to 2015-16
of Amritsar Airport*

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Profit/Loss
1.	2001-02	5.95	8.2	-2.25
2.	2002-03	6.56	11.39	-4.83
3.	2003-04	6.87	12.67	-5.8
4.	2004-05	9.93	19.81	-9.88

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Profit/Loss
5.	2005-06	15.61	22.23	-6.62
6.	2006-07	21.64	32.87	-11.23
7.	2007-08	32.16	38.14	-5.98
8.	2008-09	31.32	56.27	-24.95
9.	2009-10	35.53	84.71	-49.18
10.	2010-11	57.00	87.03	-30.03
11.	2011-12	66.46	103.63	-37.17
12.	2012-13	59.96	105.14	-45.18
13.	2013-14	67.67	120.95	-53.28
14.	2014-15	77.64	127.92	-50.28
15.	2015-16	87.27	137.74	-50.47

Inclusion of Government schemes in DBT

*69. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to bring nearly half of its schemes under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) from the next financial year to track beneficiaries, improve efficiency and check leakage;

(b) whether Government has initiated any comprehensive study in this regard; and;

(c) if so, number of schemes already brought under DBT and number of schemes identified across Ministries for inclusion in DBT, and the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) was launched with the objective to uniquely identify the beneficiary and transfer the benefits directly without delay, by using Information and Communications Technology (ICT), so as to curb pilferage and duplication. The scope of DBT has been expanded in March, 2016 to include 'in kind' transfers as well as transfers to various 'enablers' of Government schemes, in addition to 'cash transfers' in social welfare schemes. DBT Cells have been constituted in 76 Central Ministries/Departments and in 30 States/Union Territories. These DBT Cells in Central Ministries/Department have examined 1128 schemes/scheme components for DBT applicability. Out of 1128 schemes/scheme components examined by Ministries/Departments, 489 schemes/scheme components have been identified to be DBT applicable. As on 31.10.2016, 78 schemes/