

the third worst airline in the world by the Flight Status Report, which is not just detrimental to the country's image but also diminishes its usage by flyers, further adding to its losses; and

(b) whether Government has any plans to ask Air India to start training schools for employees on the lines of what hotel industry is doing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Generally Air India flights operate on time. However, at times flights are delayed due to technical, operational, weather and miscellaneous reasons which are beyond the control of the airlines. In order to improve OTP of Air India initiatives have been taken to increase the availability of resources in terms of crew and aircraft. Ministry has taken steps to monitor the OTP of Air India. The OTP of Air India is also reviewed in the Oversight Committee Meetings held in the Ministry. Further, OTP is monitored at the highest level within Air India on daily basis. A video conference is anchored by Integrated Operation Control Centre (IOCC) every day in which the representatives of operating departments from four regions participate to review the previous day's operation and evolve process improvements wherever possible.

Air India has a schools/sections that deals with *ab initio*, recurrent and up gradation training programs for the employees working in various trades such as Pilots/ Cabin crew/ Flight Dispatchers/ Engineers/ Technicians/ Commercial/Security etc. These schools are located at Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi with Head Quarters at Hyderabad.

As regards the ranking of Air India as third worst airline by M/s FlightStats, it is clarified that the matter was taken up with M/s FlightStats by Air India. M/s FlightStats has clarified that:

"We understand that a recent article by Bloomberg has portrayed Air India in a negative light and we want to assure you that FlightStats by no means endorsed their portrayal of your performance. While we do highlight exceptional performers, we do not, and have not, highlighted low performance or maintain a list of worst performing airlines".

Grounding of private air charter service

2104. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has ordered grounding of a private air charter service used for ferrying demonetised currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the grounding of private air charter service does not go well with the license issued to them; and

(d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (d) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had cancelled security programme of the non-scheduled operator which carried de-monetised currency for violation of the provisions as contained in approved security programme as well as relevant Aviation Security (AVSEC) Order and Circulars. A show cause notice dated 13.12.2016 was issued for suspension/cancellation of their permit as per para 7.7 of CAR 3/C/Part-III by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on the ground of withdrawal of their security programme by BCAS. However, both BCAS order and any consequential action by DGCA have been stayed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and as such, the matter is *sub-judice*.

Construction of Bhogapuram International Airport

2105. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made announcement for starting work on Bhogapuram International Airport near Visakhapatnam on fast-track mode, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the process of land acquisition is completed and if so, by when the work would be started;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred for the construction of Bhogapuram Airport, and the pattern of funding; and

(d) whether both Visakhapatnam Airport and the proposed Bhogapuram International Airport would be operational, once commissioned, for the convenience of Visakhapatnam and adjoining people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Government of India (GoI) has granted 'in principle' approval to Bhogapuram International Airport Corporation Limited (BIACL) for setting up of Bhogapuram International Greenfield Airport for public use in Vizianagaram District, near Visakhapatnam in October, 2016.