

(b) whether it is also a fact that for stopover flights the traveller has to wait around 83.55 per cent of the travel time in the airports;

(c) if so, proposal of Government to reduce the waiting time of passengers; and

(d) the details of comparative study with the international counterparts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (d) No such analysis has been made by this Ministry, however, continuous efforts are taken to reduce runway occupancy time, enhancing runway utility, enhancement in aircraft movement through Air Traffic Control etc. for reducing the waiting time of passenger.

Skill gap in civil aviation sector

1786. PROF M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has undertaken any measures to address the expanding skill gap in the civil aviation given the unprecedented growth in the Indian aviation sector; and

(b) the number of trained pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers in the country who are currently unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) In accordance with the road map for aviation education and skill development contained in the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, a number of initiatives have been taken in order to bridge skill gaps wherever these exist. Qualification Packs -National Occupational Standards (QP-NOS) have been drawn up for identified job roles in the aviation sector in accordance with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). Other initiatives include Recognition of Prior Learning and creation of awareness through workshops. The Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) has been set up to facilitate and promote aviation studies and research, achieve excellence in areas related to aviation sector, and to produce quality human resources. RGNAU also conducts Executive Development Programmes and Management Development Programmes for the industry.

(b) During the last five years between 2012 and 2016, Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL) was granted to 3,016 persons and Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (ATPL) to 2,172 persons, while Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) Licence were granted to 159 persons and Basic AME Certificate to 3,644 persons as per data maintained by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Data on currently unemployed trained aviation pilots and/or AMEs in the country is not maintained.

Opposition to privatisation of Air India

1787. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various employees' unions of Air India have opposed the Government's decision to privatise Air India and they have written a letter to the Ministry warning of an industrial unrest against this decision; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The All India Airlines Retired Personnel Association has submitted representation against the proposed disinvestment of Air India Limited.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 28.06.2017 has given in-principle approval for considering strategic disinvestment of Air India and its five subsidiaries and constitution of Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) to guide the process on strategic disinvestment.

Air services between small cities of Madhya Pradesh and Delhi

†1788. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Questions 1296 and 4333 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14 March, 2017 and 11 April, 2017, respectively and state whether there is a proposal to connect a number of small cities of Madhya Pradesh to the National Capital by air service and the details of progress made so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): With repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation was deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.