

(Vizianagaram), Tadepalligudem (West Godavari), Oravakallu (Kurnool) and Kuppam (Chittoor) in Andhra Pradesh, Chingleput near Chennai, Gwalior and Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Hisar in Haryana, Kothagudem (Khammam) in Telangana, Noida International Airport near Jewar, Saifai (Etawah) in Uttar Pradesh, Shivdaspur in Jaipur, Karwar and Chickmagalur in Karnataka and Rajkot in Gujarat. GoI has granted 'site clearance' approval for setting up of Greenfield Airport at Bhiwadi (district Alwar) in Rajasthan, Kothagudem (Khammam) in Telangana, Rajkot in Gujarat and Noida International Airport near Jewar in Uttar Pradesh and 'in principle' approval for setting up of Dagadharthi (Nellore), Bhogapuram (Vizianagaram) and Oravakallu (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Yes Sir. GoI, MoCA has granted approval to Navi Mumbai airport near Mumbai and Bhiwadi and Jewar airport in NCR region.

Safety survey for drivers working in various airports

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) is considering to conduct safety survey for drivers working in various airports in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this was necessitated because of various accidents that happened inside the airports involving with the aircrafts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Drivers are however being sensitized from time to time to take appropriate precautions while driving within the Operational Area. Prior training before issue of Airport Driving Pass (ADP) is also ensured.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Dangers of laser beams at airports

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

(a) whether it is a fact that laser beams pose danger in the air and disturb aviation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a sharp ray of light can cause temporary blindness to a pilot that may result in a mishap;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many pilots have complained of being distracted by a laser beam while landing at the airport; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Laser beams can cause flash blindness to the pilot which may endanger the safety of aircraft operations.

(c) Pilots have complained sighting laser beams mainly in the vicinity of Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai and Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. Airport operators have filed complaints with local police for such cases.

(d) An order was issued by Dy. Commissioner of Police, Greater Mumbai to ban laser lights in Laser Free Flight Zone around CSI Airport, Mumbai. An order was also issued by O/o of Sub Divisional Magistrate to the owners of Farmhouses/Motels/Hotels/Party venues situated in the vicinity of IGI Airport, New Delhi to ban use of laser lights.

Violation of safety norms by airlines

†201. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the increasing cases of violation of safety norms by Air India and other air services operators;

(b) if so, whether Ministry has issued any new criteria towards strict compliance of air safety norms by aviation companies; and

(c) the number of cases of violation of safety norms by Air India and other private air operators during the last three years and the details of action taken against them, year-wise and aircraft operation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) No Sir. There is reducing trend of the cases of safety violations in the last three years.

(c) Details of number of violations of air safety norms by Air India and Private operators during the last three years and the action taken thereon, year-wise and operator-wise are given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.