

[24August, 2004] . RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines has been asked to keep in mind medium and long haul operations around the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As the fleet acquisition proposal presently under examination was about 3 years old, Indian Airlines are re-examining the plan in the light of the changes in the market scenario on account of this lapse of time. IA have been advised to apprise the Government of the outcome of their exercise for further action expeditiously.

Morning Flight between Delhi and Guwahati

2105. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a morning flight from Guwahati to Delhi and an afternoon flight from Delhi to Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The time slots are proposed by the airlines themselves on the basis of commercial inputs and operational feasibility. However, Alliance Air has started a thrice weekly morning flights on Guwahati-Delhi (via Bagdogra) sector *w.e.f.* 17.08.2004.

Amritsar Airport as an International Airport

2106. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to make Amritsar Airport as an international airport;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor;

(c) the details of progress of the work ;

(d) the reasons for the delay; and

(e) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CML AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Amritsar airport has already been declared as an International Airport.

(b) to (e) Rs. 79.27 crores has been sanctioned for the development of works such as extension and resurfacing of runway for operations of AB-300 type of aircraft, extension and resurfacing of the existing apron, construction of a new link taxi track, a new isolation bay, a new fire station of cat-IX, a new cargo complex and a new car park area besides provision of Cat-IILS and construction of a new boundary wall around the newly acquired land with perimeter road on the inner side have already been completed. Works such as construction of a new technical block cum control tower & other ancillary building for better management of air traffic is in progress and likely to be completed by December, 2004. The work for construction of a new centrally air-conditioned terminal building of 500 passenger capacity is likely to be completed by May, 2005. The delay was caused due to the fact that the work awarded to the earlier contractor had to be rescinded due to unsatisfactory performance.

Airworthiness Check Schedule

2107. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any monitoring agency to check/inspect the level of maintenance of private carriers and to maintain the safety standard of national carriers;

(b) if so, the details of schedules of inspections etc.; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to provide a better airworthiness check schedule for better safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down requirements for approval of an organisation for maintenance of aircraft in the country. Such organisations have to meet the requirements in terms of manpower, literature, facility and quality system. These organisations are periodically required to carry out audit/scheduled inspection to ensure that maintenance of aircraft is carried out as per laid down standard. Besides, DGCA also carries out safety audits, surveillance inspections and spot checks at regular intervals. As and when deficiencies are found, corrective measures are taken by DGCA.