

**Air services from airstrips in Uttarakhand**

†1616. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no other airstrip in Uttarakhand besides Dehradun and Pantnagar, wherefrom smaller aircrafts can be operated;
- (b) if not, the details of difficulties being faced in operation of aeroplanes from these airstrips;
- (c) whether private planes are being operated from these airstrips; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for which Government is not starting operation of aeroplanes from these airstrips?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) There are three small airstrips belonging to State Government of Uttarakhand namely Pithoragarh, Chinyalisaur and Gauchar for operating of smaller aircraft.

(b) to (d) Starting of flights from unserved and underserved airports belonging to State Government, Defence or Private under RCS-UDAN depends on firm demand from airline operators who bid for lowest Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for operating flights at these airports. Further, flight operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the Government. It is upto the airline operators to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. However, Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme [Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)] in October, 2016 with the objective to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity to currently underserved and unserved airports.

**Funds for development of airports**

1617. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that airports need ₹2.4 lakh crore in ten years to meet demand;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that India invested ₹52,000 crore over the last decade at various airports;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 57 per cent growth was recorded in passenger traffic during the period between 2014-17;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) has finalized a capital expenditure of ₹65,000 crore of which ₹ 17,500 crore is for the next five years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No such assessment has been made by the Government. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to invest ₹ 20,178 crore for the period 2016-17 to 2021-22.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) invested ₹ 20,037.27 crore at various airports over the last decade from 2007-08 to 2016-17.

(c) The air passenger traffic in India has witnessed a growth of 56.9% (International 27.2%, Domestic 68.2%) during the year 2016-17 as compared to 2013-14.

(d) and (e) AAI has planned a capital expenditure of ₹20,178 crore for the period 2016-17 to 2021-22 out of which Capital expenditure for Engg./IT Works is ₹ 16961.48 crore and Capital expenditure for ANS Equipment is ₹ 3216.52 crore.

#### **Disinvestment of Air India**

1618. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India's ground handling subsidiary, Air India Air Transport Services, is getting a lot of interest from prospective bidders;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a budget airline has shown interest in the international airline operations of Air India and Air India Express and alternatively it is equally interested in acquiring all airline operations of Air India and Air India Express; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?