

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir. However, Air India appointed a Management Consulting firm in March 2017, through a tender process, to review internal processes and benchmark them to global standards, to carry out a Gap analysis, and to prepare a strategic business plan for the company for the next ten years.

(b) Eight Unions/associations have formed a Joint Forum under the aegis of Air India Joint Forum Against Privatization (AIUJFAP) to oppose the recommendations of Niti Aayog, to privatise Air India Ltd.

Crisis of Air India

331. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is reportedly planning to write off over ₹50,000 crore debt of Air India before the sell-off;

(b) whether the reasons for crisis of Air India is withdrawal from several profit making international routes; and

(c) if so, whether these decisions were taken ignoring the House panel and Committee on Public Undertaking (COPU) recommendations, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir. No such decision has been taken by the Government so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Setting up of drug repositories for AYUSH drugs

332. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATH (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a problem in getting regular supply of raw material for AYUSH drugs in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider setting up of drug repositories in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts National Medicinal Plant Board has been doing in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Medicinal Plants are the major resource base for AYUSH drugs in the country. To ensure availability and regular supply of raw material of medicinal plants for AYUSH drugs, the National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH under its "Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" is augmenting the medicinal plants resources in the wild and also promoting their large scale cultivation in farmer's field under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM).

The National Medicinal Plants Board has considered to set up National and Regional Raw Drug Repositories in various regions / zones of the country and in this regard, invited project proposals, the preliminary screening of which has been completed.

Debts of Air India

333. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has nearly ₹ 60,000 crore debt on its books of which around ₹22,000 crore is linked to its aircraft purchase programme if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are also loans of around ₹6,000-7,000 crore related to its operations which will go with the airlines, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The total outstanding loans on Air India as on 31st March 2017, as per Provisional Estimates for FY 2016-17 are ₹ 48877 crores, which of the same are as follows:

(i)	Aircraft Loans	-	₹ 17,360 crore
(ii)	Working Capital Loans	-	₹ 31,517 crore
TOTAL		-	₹ 48,877 crore.

(b) No such decision has so far been taken by the Government in this regard. The Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) will decide future course of action, regarding Air India's debt.