

(d) the details of AAI airports privatised in the past three fiscal years to improve their operational facet and accommodate more population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Some of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports face congestion at certain periods of the day when demand exceeds capacity which results in congestion at the airport. In order to augment capacity to meet the present and forecasted growth, AAI has reviewed airport infrastructure *i.e.* runway capacity, taxiways, Rapid Exist Taxiways, apron, new terminal building/ expansion of existing building, construction of cargo building, hangars, car parking and approach road etc. of top 20 airports and initiated action to meet the demand. Further, the Government has embarked upon an ambitious NABH Nirman airport capacity expansion programme through which Government has proposed to increase the capacity of airports by 4 to 5 times to handle a billion passenger trips per year over the next 10 to 15 year. Further, to tackle the capacity shortage in Delhi and Mumbai airports, the concerned airport operators have taken action for creation of additional capacity by way of expansion of terminal, using facilities at Hindon airport for RCS aircrafts and development of new Greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai and Jewar. Government has also instituted a Flight Operations Committee, chaired by Chairman, AAI and including all relevant stakeholders to ensure that all flights are handled in a safe, orderly and expeditious manner.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No AAI airport has been privatized in past three fiscal years.

Fire services category of calicut Airport

2418. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) on what ground fire category VIII of Calicut airport has been reduced to category VII, while sufficient number of fire personnel are available for maintaining stations of category VIII;

(b) whether Government is aware that airport management is again battling for curtailing the operational facilities of Calicut airport; and

(c) whether Government would consider the hardships of passengers particularly the migrants due to the decision to reduce the fire category to VII, which will adversely affect the effort to accommodate CODE 'E' flights at Calicut airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Presently, at Calicut Airport, the Aircraft Rescue and

Fire Fighting (ARFF) category is VIII and has not been reduced to VII.

(b) No operational facility has been curtailed at Calicut Airport as on date.

(c) Required ARFF category for the commercial operations is always ensured and maintained by Airports Authority of India so that no hardship is faced by passengers including migrants.

Bugs in Newark-Mumbai Air India flight

2419. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national carrier Air India, struggling to court global bidders for divestment, has been found to have its passengers on Flight No. AI 144 Newark Mumbai suffer from bug bites in its Business Class on 19 July, 2018;

(b) whether Air India is examining a formal complaint lodged by the parents of an infant covered in bug bites and found bleeding during the 17-hour flight; and

(c) whether the incident left business class passengers enraged with the onward journey of the flight's Mumbai-Delhi leg getting delayed by four hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Bed bugs were reported by a passenger on Air India Flight No. 144 (Newark Mumbai) of 18th July 2018. On arrival of aircraft at Mumbai, bed bug treatment (intensive spraying of Chlorophosphide, Protex and Ektara) was carried out on the airplane before further flight.

(b) Air India has received a complaint from the passenger. The concerned passenger was refunded the ticket cost.

(c) Mumbai-Delhi flight got delayed by 03:16 hrs. due to intensive spraying treatment for bed bug at Mumbai, prior to further flight.

Reforms in airline ticket cancellation policy

2420. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to reform airline ticket cancellation policy;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government would consider free cancellation of airline tickets if done within 24 hours of booking; and