

(b) if so, what will be its impact on Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. British Airways, the designated airline of UK is not presently entitled to operate either to Bangalore or to Hyderabad.

(b) Does not arise.

Shifting of Patna Airport

†1607. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan for the shifting of Patna Airport to some other place after the accident near Patna Airport this year;

(b) if so, by when the new Airport is proposed to come in operation after shifting the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In case of many old airports, residential areas have developed nearby over a long period. However necessary rules relating to height restriction etc. are enforced in giving 'No objection' to such development so that safety of civil aviation operations is ensured. As such, there is no danger to civil aviation operations in such airports. Therefore, there is no plan to shift such existing airports to far away places.

Upgradation of Srinagar Airport

1608. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken action for the long pending upgradation of Srinagar Airport; and

(b) if so, whether any time frame has been set and whether the decision of Government to upgrade the said Airport as International airport is still valid?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Srinagar Airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence and Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains only a Civil Enclave. AAI has planned the following works for upgradation of Srinagar airport (i) Expansion of Terminal building for handling 600 passengers at a time and (ii) Provision for customs and immigration facilities at this Terminal building suitable for handling limited international charter flights.

Lapses in leasing of TU-154 Aircrafts

1609. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level inquiry has been initiated to fix-up the responsibility for the glaring lapses on the part of Indian Airlines pertaining to the non-maintenance of records while leasing of TU-154 aircraft;

(b) if so, whether the Chairman of Indian Airlines has been asked to fix up the responsibility on officers who have caused a loss of Rs. 50.84 lakh to the Airlines by making over payment to the Russian Government;

(c) whether any report has been submitted in this regard, if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(d) what action has been taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The case regarding lapses in leasing of TU-154 aircraft is not maintaining the records of delays and cancellation of flights was enquired into by the then Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation. He held four officers of Indian Airlines responsible for dereliction of duties.

No action was recommended against two officers since they had retired by then. It was recommended that charge sheet be issued to one of the officers and the other officer be censured. Accordingly, the then Managing Director, Indian Airlines was directed to take necessary action on these recommendations. On further review of these two cases, the then Managing Director, Indian Airlines found the explanation in one case acceptable and closed the case. In the other case, it was decided to counsel the officer instead of censuring him and thus, this case was also closed by the Indian Airlines.