

(vii) During October-November 2018, AAI has conducted Operational Trials of Standard Operating Procedure to address early departures of scheduled flights to Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

(b) Delhi airport currently has three runway strips. Construction of the fourth runway strip is planned to commence in March, 2019.

Status of Jagdalpur airport

2250. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Jagdalpur airport, inaugurated by the Prime Minister on June 2018;

(b) whether the airport is operational, the details on the number of flights thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Air Odisha, which was given the contract to connect Jagdalpur with Raipur and Visakhapatnam had promised to cap fares at ₹ 1,700 but was selling tickets at ₹ 3500-4000 per ticket as reported by news-media; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Jagdalpur Airport is an operational airport belonging to the State Government of Chhattisgarh. Flight schedule for operations to Jagdalpur Airport was approved for Air Odisha during Summer Schedule 2018. However, the airline has currently suspended their operations.

(c) and (d) Under the RCS Scheme, RCS seats are defined as the number of passenger seats to be sold at or below the applicable Airfare Cap by the Selected Airline Operator (SAO) within the RCS Flight Capacity. To meet the Minimum Performance Specifications, a SAO is required to provide fifty per cent (50%) of RCS Flight Capacity as RCS Seats:—

- (i) provided that where fifty per cent (50%) of RCS Flight Capacity exceeds forty (40) passenger seats, the RCS Seats shall be capped at forty (40) passenger seats,
- (ii) provided further that where fifty per cent (50%) of RCS Flight Capacity is less than nine (9) passenger seats, the minimum number of RCS Seats shall not be less than nine (9),
- (iii) SAO can sell the balance fifty per cent (50%) passenger seats at market value,

- (iv) Above fare details of SAO are checked by conducting audit by an independent auditor

Expansion of runway of Mysore airport

2251. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received request from the State Government of Karnataka for expansion of runway of Mysore airport and for bearing the entire cost including the land acquisition by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has considered and approved the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Additional Chief Secretary to the State Government of Karnataka *vide* letter dated 14.11.2018 has requested Government of India to bear the entire cost of expansion of Mysore airport under its scheme of expansion/improvements of RCS airports. In this regard, this Ministry *vide* letter dated 19.11.2018 has clarified to the State Government that RCS funds cannot be utilized to meet the cost of land acquisition. Further, in general, land for the development/expansion works at airports, is acquired by the State Government and handed over to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

Arbitrary cancellation of flights by airlines

2252. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has collected data regarding the problems faced by passengers due to arbitrary cancellation of flights by the airlines;

(b) if so, the action plan formulated by Government to address the problems faced by travellers along with the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering ways to reduce cancellation of flights by the airlines; and

(d) if so, the details of the strategy formulated in this regard?