

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Need for comprehensive aviation infrastructure plans**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India needs a comprehensive aviation infrastructure plans as air traffic is booming;

(b) whether it is also a fact that developing airports like real estate business is doomed to fail;

(c) whether the airports need to be developed first and foremost as a catalyst for economic development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive aviation capacity expansion program, NABH (NextGen Airports for Bharat) Nirman, as announced in the Union Budget 2018, is intended to develop sufficient airport and air space capacity. NABH Nirman, a multi-year program, envisages to expand India's aviation capacity 4 to 5 times to serve a billion passenger trips a year. This program includes overall passenger growth projections, detailed passenger forecasts for all major airports, new regulatory approaches for greenfield and brownfield airports, collaborative urban and land planning frameworks with various states, and necessary financing to build out aviation capacity. Various experts have estimated that aviation capacity expansion to reach a billion trips will require between ₹ 3 lakh crores and 4 lakh crores. Airport investments are required in both commercially viable major airports, minor airports operated as a public service and wide range of other landing facilities such as no-frills, airports, helipads, and water-based ports for seaplanes. Significant investments are also required in managing air space and in digitizing air traffic management.

(b) India has witnessed double digit passenger growth at airports for 50 consecutive months and the trend is likely to continue. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a CAPEX plan of ₹ 25000 crores for next five years. Further, a total investment of ₹ 1 Lakh crores is expected in aviation sector of India in next five years, which includes CAPEX of AAI, airport expansion plans of Joint Venture (JV) Airports, development of Greenfield airports, development of airports under UDAN, purchase of aircraft by airlines etc.

(c) and (d) The development of airports provides fast and safe connectivity to remote places with rest of the country and brings business opportunities closer to people giving an impetus to economic development in the respective regions.

#### **Retrofitting of Boeing 777**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India had to send two brand new Boeing 777 to the US for being retrofitted with the latest security and communication systems so that they can replace 25 year old jumbo jets used by the President, Vice President and the Prime Minister for long international flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said aircraft will be back to India after two years as retrofitting will take a minimum of two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The two new B777 aircraft were sent to US for retrofitting on 01.06.2018 and 30.06.2018 respectively. These two B777 aircraft bearing registration No.VT-ALV and VT-ALW have been positioned in US for retrofit with the latest Security and Communication Systems so that they can replace 22-25 years old B 747 Jets used by the President, Vice President and the Prime Minister for long international flights.

(c) and (d) The expected date of arrival of the two B777 aircraft after retrofitting are as follows: