

shareholding in Air India Express and AI SATS was issued on 28th March, 2018. No EoI/bid was received till the last date of receipt of bids, *i.e.* 31st May, 2018. The Government remains committed to the disinvestment of Air India. In this regard, the Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) has, *inter alia* decided that in view of volatile crude prices and adverse fluctuations in exchange rates, the present environment is not conducive to stimulate interest amongst investors for the strategic disinvestment of Air India in the near future. The issue would be revisited once global economic indicators including oil prices and forex conditions stabilize.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Regarding Jet Airways, no such information is available with this Ministry. However, probable reasons as analyzed by the Transaction Advisor *i.e.* M/s EY for non-receipt of bids for Air India do not mention manpower liability as a reason adversely affecting the divestment of Air India.

Aircraft Manufacturing Policy

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

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to draft an Aircraft Manufacturing Policy in India in order to boost airplane manufacturing in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and b) No, Sir. At present, no proposal to draft an Aircraft Manufacturing Policy is under consideration in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Non-payment of salaries to staff and pilots by private airlines

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that many private airlines are not able to pay even salaries to their pilots and staff for some months; and

(b) if so, what are the names of these airlines and what steps are being taken to ensure that airlines staff and pilots are paid their salaries in time and adequate measures are taken for the safety of passengers travelling in these private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per the information received, there is a delay in Jet Airways in payment of salaries to its higher category employees *i.e.* Pilots, AMEs and Senior Management. The airline has informed that they have planned for a phased payment to clear all outstanding dues including the payment of salaries.

Growth of air passenger and cargo traffic

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

(a) whether it is a fact that air passenger and cargo traffic has grown rapidly in recent years; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken during the last four years to meet this growing need of air traffic in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Yes, it is a fact that air passenger and also cargo traffic has grown rapidly in recent years. All Indian airports taken together have handled 308.75 million passengers in 2017-18, 264.97 million passengers in 2016-17, 223.96 million passengers in 2015-16 and 190.13 million passengers in 2014-15. Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) during the last three years for passengers is 17.5%.

All Indian airports taken together have handled 3.36 million MT cargo traffic in 2017-18, 2.98 million MT cargo traffic in 2016-17, 2.70 million MT cargo traffic in 2015-16 and 2.53 million MT cargo traffic in 2014-15. Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) during the last three years for cargo traffic is 9.9%.

(b) The challenges emerging out of growth of air traffic are addressed proactively to ensure safe and efficient aircraft operations. Major steps taken are as below:—

- (i) To manage airspace challenges AAI in coordination with Defence Authorities is implementing Flexible Use of Airspace (FUA) concept under which civil and military flights use the airspace in a flexible manner.
- (ii) Central- Air Traffic Flow Management (C-ATFM) is also being implemented in a phased manner to reduce congestion.
- (iii) Performance Based Navigation (PBN) ATS routes and Terminal procedure [Standard Instrument Departure (SID) and Standard Arrival Routes (STAR)] have been implemented in high density airspace to augment capacity.