

1	2	3	4
34.	Daman and Diu	0.3	50.1
35.	Lakshadweep	4.3	34.6
36.	Puducherry	4.8	50.9
	ALL INDIA	3.7	50.5

Source: Employment-Unemployment Surveys of Labour Bureau.

Huge loss in global civil aviation

*36. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is 3rd largest global flyer with 16.15 crore people travelled in 2017 in comparison to 13.1 crore in 2016;

(b) if so, whether world's 3rd largest global air market is in huge loss with cash crunch and facing severe financial instability;

(c) if so, whether Government has made any review/survey of the reasons for the bad debt in the sector inspite of boom performances for years; and

(d) the proposal of Government to revive and strengthen aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) As per the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the Indian domestic market for air travel in terms of passenger tickets is the third largest globally. Total scheduled passengers (domestic and international) for the year 2017 were 17.6 crore in comparison with 15.3 crore for the year 2016.

(b) to (d) As per the records available with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Scheduled Indian carriers had net operating revenues of ₹ 2,451 crore in 2016-17 and ₹ 913 crore in 2017-18 (provisional figure). No study has been carried out by the Government on any bad debt in the sector. In order to strengthen and promote the growth and financial viability of the Indian civil aviation sector a number of measures have been undertaken, *inter alia*, under the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016 with the objective of making flying by the masses affordable and convenient, establishing an integrated ecosystem for significant growth of the civil aviation sector to promote tourism, employment and balanced regional growth, enhancing regional

connectivity through fiscal support and infrastructure development, and promoting ease of doing business through deregulation, simplification of procedures and e-governance. The Policy aims to promote the entire aviation sector covering passenger and cargo transportation services, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), general aviation, aircraft, components and associated equipment's manufacturing, aviation finance and taxation, and skill development in a harmonized and holistic manner.

Duty free tariff preference scheme to African countries

*37. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has accorded Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme to 38 African countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recent signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement is likely to further boost the ties with Africa; and

(d) if so, why Government has not finalised the Free Trade Agreement with the European Union and by when it would be signed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Sir, The United Nations has listed 47 countries including 34 from Africa as Least Developed Countries (LDCs). All these countries are eligible for benefit under the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme.

(c) The African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, an agreement among 49 African countries, is yet to become operational. It is expected to provide opportunities to Indian firms and investors to tap into a unified African market.

(d) The proposed India-European Union Broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (India-EU BTIA) is envisaged as a comprehensive agreement covering the areas of Goods, Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation, etc. No date for finalization of the agreement can be given on account of the bilateral nature of negotiations.