

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Assistance to private airlines**

*106. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether four private airlines in the country have asked Government to help them obtaining unsecured credit from oil companies and airports to bail them out of the current financial stress, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how Government proposes to sort out the matter with these private airlines, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Government has taken several measures to revive the airline industry and ensure long term viability of the sector. The airline industry is a dynamic industry which requires continuous adjustment according to global and domestic needs. The Government has constantly been responding to industry conditions and undertaking specific measures to facilitate and enable growth of the sector. Steps also include reduction of Central Excise Duty applicable on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) from 14% to 11% w.e.f. 11th October, 2018 and rationalization of GST provisions, with a view to revive the airline industry.

A representation was however received from Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), recently, for helping the industry by allowing an additional one month unsecured credit on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and Airport Charges. Airlines are in the process of resolving their financial problems through negotiations with banks, financial institutions, lessors etc. Each airline prepares its own business plan on the basis of its own market assessment and financial resources. Based on its business plan, the efficient operations and financial performance is the responsibility of each individual airline and its shareholder.

Converting domestic airports into international airports

†*107. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic airports being operated in the country at present which are proposed to be converted into international airports by Government along with the names of these airports; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.