

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.

(b) by when the Government targets to convert these airports into international airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Development and upgradation of airports into international airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and concerned private operators from time to time depending upon commercial viability, traffic demand, availability of land etc. At present, no proposal regarding conversion of any domestic airport into international airport is pending in this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

New FDI e-commerce policy on e-commerce industry

*108. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken for the growth of e-commerce industry in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is in the process of implementing new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) e-commerce policy;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any detailed study regarding impact of new FDI e-commerce policy on e-commerce industry has been made by Government before implementing the said policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) For the growth of the e-Commerce sector, a conducive regulatory environment has been provided under the extant laws and regulations which grant legal recognition to entities in the sector. The Government of India in the Department of Commerce established a Think Tank on "Framework for National Policy on E-commerce" and a Task Force under it which deliberated on the challenges confronting India in the arena of the digital economy and electronic commerce (e-commerce). The first meeting of the Think Tank was held on 24th April, 2018. The Think Tank was further sub-divided into various sub-groups, comprising representation at the technical level from the Government, industry and experts with domain knowledge. Suggestions were also received from stakeholders.