

Construction of new airports in the country

†*111. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new airports decided to be constructed by Government during each of the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18; and

(b) the names of the places decided for the construction of new airports in each of the said years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Details of the Airports for which Government of India (GoI), has granted 'In principle' approval:

2015-16- Dholera in Gujarat,

2016-17- Dagadarthi Mendal in Nellore Distt, Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram District near Visakhapatnam and Oravakallu in Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh

2017-18- Hirasar, Distt. Rajkot, Gujarat

2018-19- Jewar in Uttar Pradesh and Hollongi in Arunachal Pradesh

Details of Airports for which GoI, MoCA have granted 'site clearance' approval:

2015-16- Kotkasim Tehsil in Alwar, Rajasthan

2016-17- Kothagudem, Distt. Khammam, Telangana

2017-18- Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh

2018-19- Purandar in Pune.

The timeline for construction of airport projects depends upon many factors such as land acquisition, availability of mandatory clearances, financial closure, etc. by the individual operator. Besides, as per Greenfield Airport Policy, setting up of a Greenfield Airport requires two stage clearances *i.e.* 'Site Clearance' and in-principle' approval.

Increase in air safety violations

*112. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been rising number of cases of air safety violations by airlines which have led to health problems for citizens during the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to resolve the safety issues and whether all the airlines have complied to Government guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) In last three years, there has been only one instance which has led to passenger health problem due to air safety violation by airlines. Brief of incident is as follows:—

"On 20.09.2018, M/s Jet Airways aircraft was scheduled to operate flight from Mumbai to Jaipur. Aircraft took off from Mumbai without putting bleed switch at "ON" position. This resulted in depressurization of aircraft. Aircraft landed back at Mumbai. A total of 32 passenger affected out of which 5 passengers were hospitalized."

(b) Following steps have been taken by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to minimise incidents:—

- (i) As an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) contracting State, DGCA has played a very proactive role in implementing the ICAO Standard And Recommended Practices (SARPs) through promulgation of legislations.
- (ii) DGCA has a robust mechanism for the aviation safety and its oversight which balances the needs of the industry, travelling public and the international community. ICAO and FAA of USA, during their audits, have found that DGCA has developed a robust regulatory mechanism to ensure safety of aircraft operations.
- (iii) DGCA publishes Annual Safety Oversight Program for all areas of air safety. The program includes area of activity of different service providers, which is inspected by DGCA.
- (iv) The surveillance /regulatory audit findings are reviewed with the operator at each Directorate level. In addition, detailed surveillance meeting is convened at Director General Level on monthly basis. Matters of significant safety concern requiring immediate enforcement action are taken up in the Board for Aviation Safety (BFAS) meeting headed by the Director General.
- (v) Based on the outcome of monthly surveillance meetings, salient findings are also shared with the CEO /Accountable Manager of respective organizations for taking urgent corrective action.

- (vi) Safety recommendations emanating from the investigation reports are followed up for implementation with the concerned agencies so as to prevent recurrence of similar incident in future.
- (vii) Accident /incident data is regularly analyzed and based on the analysis, Air Safety Circulars are issued by DGCA to bring important observations / findings to the notice of the operators to avoid the recurrence of the accidents /incidents. DGCA through its oversight mechanism ensures that all airlines/airport operators comply with these legislations.

Small airports in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

*113. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to build small airports at district headquarters of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the districts selected for the purpose along with the details of the current status thereof; and
- (d) the time by when these airports are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation has formulated a Greenfield Airport Policy for development of Greenfield Airports across the country. As per the Greenfield Airport Policy, the applicant proposing to set up an airport would make an application to the Steering Committee in the format prescribed under the said policy. On the request received from project proponent for setting up of a greenfield airport, Government grants two stage clearances *i.e.* 'Site Clearance' followed by 'In-principle' approval. In line with this Policy, Government of India have granted 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of Greenfield airports at Dagadarthi Mendal in Nellore District, Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram District near Visakhapatnam and Oravakallu in Kurnool District in the State of Andhra Pradesh and 'Site Clearance' approval to airport project at Kothagudem, District Khammam in the State of Telangana.