

been taken to make career in the Armed Forces more attractive including improvement in promotion prospects, more attractive pay package, better compensation for risk and hardships, additional family accommodation through Married Accommodation Project (MAP) etc.

Handing over of INS Virat to Andhra Pradesh

959. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) present status of INS Virat;
- (b) whether it is a fact that INS Virat has been given to the State of Andhra Pradesh to use this mammoth ship for promotion of tourism in Visakhapatnam;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not sending it to Visakhapatnam even after preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR);
- (d) whether it is also a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has asked for funds from Defence and Tourism Ministries for converting Virat for tourism purpose; and
- (e) if so, Government's action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (e) INS Virat has been decommissioned in 2017. INS Virat could not be handed over to any State Government because of non-receipt of a self-sustaining financially complete proposal. Thus, in view of considerations of safety, security etc., a decision to scrap INS Virat has been taken in due consultation with Indian Navy.

Waiver in landing charges at defence airports

960. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal to remove landing charges at fifteen airports under the control of Indian Airforce for use by civil aviation industry is under consideration of Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of airports likely to be affected; and
- (c) in case civil aircrafts are allowed to land at Indian Airforce airports for commercial purposes, the name of agency that will bear the operation and maintenance cost of the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Exemption from payment of landing and parking charges for civil aircraft

operating from IAF airfields under Regional Connectivity Scheme has already been published in the Gazette of India for 32 airfields and 5 Advanced Landing Grounds.

(b) The details of exemption given with respect to the airfields/ALG is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) In Joint user airfields, civil apron maintenance is done by Airport Authority of India I and remaining airfield area (Runway and taxi tracks) maintenance is done by Indian Air/Force.

Statement

The details of exemption given with respect to Airfield/ALG

1. Adampur	19. Jaisalmer
2. Agra	20. Jammu
3. Ambala	21. Jorhat
4. Awantipur	22. Kalaikunda
5. Allahabad	23. Kargil
6. Bagdogra	24. Kanpur (Chakeri)
7. Bareilly	25. Pathankot
8. Bidar	26. Pune
9. Bikaner (Nal)	27. Sarsawa
10. Bhatinda	28. Silchar
11. Car Nicobar	29. Srinagar
12. Chandigarh	30. Tezpur
13. Gorakhpur	31. Thanjavur
14. Darbhanga	32. Uttarlai
15. Gwalior	33. Along (ALG)
16. Hashimara	34. Passighat (ALG)
17. Hindon	35. Tuting (ALG)
18. Jamnagar	36. Walong (ALG)
	37. Ziro (ALG)