

Plan (FRP) has also been implemented, by means of which, high cost working capital loans have been converted into long term debt carrying lesser rates of interest so as to reduce the financial burden on Air India. The TAP/FRP includes budgetary support amounting to ₹30231 crore spread over 10 years *i.e.* upto FY 2020-21 and also equity support for the payment of principal/interest of the Non-convertible Debentures (NCD).

Further, the Government has prepared a Revival Plan for Air India. Air India's Revival Plan is focused on building a competitive and profitable airline group. The Revival Plan comprises several major elements including:—

- (i) A comprehensive financial package, as approved by Government of India. This includes transferring debt and non-core assets to a Special Purpose Vehicle;
- (ii) Higher levels of operational efficiency by strengthening management and implementing best practice business processes;
- (iii) Robust organizational and governance reforms to be implemented by an eminent Board;
- (iv) Differentiated business strategies for each of Air India's core businesses;
- (v) World-class HR practices to ensure a talented and motivated workforce; and
- (vi) Sale of non-core real estate assets and strategic disinvestment of subsidiaries.

The revival plan of Air India focuses on the operational efficiencies so that substantial increase in revenue or cost saving can be achieved.

Operation of flights under UDAN Scheme in Tamil Nadu

1267. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) cities/towns selected for flight operations under UDAN Scheme in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) when flight operations are likely to commence in these places; and
- (c) whether Government would include more cities/towns in Tamil Nadu under UDAN Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Flight operations from Salem, Tanjore, Vellore and Ramnad in Tamil Nadu have been awarded under Regional Connectivity Scheme

(RCS) –UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik). Flight operation on Chennai-Salem sector has been commenced already. Commencement of flight operation at other airports depends upon the readiness of the civil airports/heliports, which may be related to availability of land, creating regional infrastructure, obtaining license from the Regulator etc. and obtaining Scheduled Commuter Operators Permit by new entrants Airlines.

(c) RCS –UDAN is demand driven and development of regional air connectivity routes depends on the market forces wherein airlines undertake assessment of demand and supply required on a particular route and participate in the bidding held from time to time.

Replacement of Air India flight routes

1268. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is operating routes with flights which are very old and needed replacement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India has carried out the fitness of all flights which they are operating on a regular basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The average age of the aircraft operated by Air India Group is 7.0 years which is as per industry standards.

(c) and (d) Air India follows a preventive maintenance programme formulated in consultation with the aircraft manufacturer and approved by the DGCA. This maintenance programme comprises of various checks such as pre-flight check, weekly check, monthly check and other higher periodicity checks. Based upon the compliance of the approved maintenance programme, DGCA issues/validates the Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) of the aircraft which is an essential document to operate any flight.

Facilities for international air cargo operations at Visakhapatnam

1269. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when international air cargo operations began at Visakhapatnam International Airport;