

passenger throughput of 10 million passengers per annum (mppa) or above and at all airports having annual passenger throughput of less than 10 mppa, AAI is to decide on the number of ground handling agencies, not exceeding three. AAI has decided to appoint consultants for calling tenders for Ground handlers for Ground Handling Services in compliance with the Ground Handling Regulation 2018.

(c) and (d) The said process was also in vogue in the previous ground handling regulations and Air India Air Transports Services Limited (AIATSL) has coexisted with the other ground handling agencies for a long time, *i.e.* since its inception and hence no adverse impact is anticipated due to this in the efforts of the Government for disinvestment of AIATSL.

Proposal to privatise some airports in the country

1274. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some airports in the country have recently been privatised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some more airports are likely to be privatised in the near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 08.11.2018 has, however, accorded 'In-principle' approval for leasing out six airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) *viz.* Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru for operation, management and development through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The bids have been received.

- (c) At present no such proposal is presently under consideration in the Ministry.
- (d) Does not arise

'Digi Yatra' programme in select airports

1275. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has started 'Digi Yatra' programme in select airports in the country;