

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;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) Digi Yatra is an initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for providing seamless and hassle-free passenger processing at Indian airports, without the need for verification of ticket and ID at multiple touch points. In the first phase, this project will be initiated at Kolkata, Pune, Vijayawada, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Cochin, Mumbai and Delhi airports by December, 2019.

Target fixed for new airports by 2022

†1276. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of new airports targeted to be built/old airports to be upgraded by the year 2022 in the country;
- (b) the names of the places where these new airports are being constructed in the country; and
- (c) the number of air passengers expected to increase on account of construction of new airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation has formulated a Greenfield Airport Policy for development of Greenfield Airports across the country. In line with the Policy, Government of India has granted 'in principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country namely Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Sindhudurg and Shirdi in Maharashtra, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hassan and Shimoga in Karnataka, Kannur in Kerala, Durgapur in West Bengal, Datia in Gwalior, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadharthi, Bhogapuram and Oravakal in Andhra Pradesh and Holongi, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. Greenfield Airports at Shirdi, Kannur, Durgapur and Pakyong have already been operationalized. Further, in addition to above, Government of India has granted 'site clearance' approval for setting up of 06 Greenfield Airports across the country namely Machiwara in Ludhiana, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, Alwar (Bhiwadi) in Rajasthan, Kothagudem, Dist. Khammam in Telangana,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.