

Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Oravakal in Andhra Pradesh and Holongi, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. Four Greenfield Airports namely, Shirdi, Kannur, Durgapur and Pakyong have already been operationalized. Further, Government of India has granted 'site clearance' approval for setting up of 6 Greenfield Airports across the country namely Machiwara in Ludhiana, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, Alwar (Bhiwadi) in Rajasthan, Kothagudem, District. Khammam in Telangana, Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh and Purandar in Pune.

(c) and (d) 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.

Besides, Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) in 2016 for promotion of Regional Connectivity by way of revival of un-served and under-served airports/airstrips, helipads of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India, Civil Enclaves and CPSUs through a budgetary support of ₹ 4500 crores. Till date, 39 airports (un-served/underserved) under RCS-UDAN scheme have been operationalized. RCS is a demand driven scheme and Government of India has not received any demand from the airline operators for operationalization of airport in Begusarai in Bihar.

#### **Grounding of Boeing 737 (MAX) in the country**

1907. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many Boeing 737 (MAX) are grounded in the country, airline-wise, details thereof;

(b) the action taken by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on these aircrafts; and

(c) how DGCA propose to bring them back to operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) 18 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are grounded in the country, out of which 13 are from SpiceJet and 05 are from Jet Airways.

(b) In the wake of Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX accident on 10 March, 2019, DGCA grounded the entire Boeing 737 MAX fleet operated by Indian operators and prohibited operation of the aircraft over Indian airspace on 13th March, 2019.

(c) A solution from M/s Boeing, the manufacturer and certification of the said solution by Federal Aviation Administration, is awaited in DGCA to consider the safe return of the aircraft to service.

#### **Rise in air passenger traffic**

1908. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airlines have posted 3 per cent rise in passenger traffic in May, 2019;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has been amongst the fastest growing aviation markets in the world and saw double digit growth for more than four years until December, 2018;

(c) whether it is also a fact that induction of new aircrafts and discounts offered by the airlines have marginally lifted the passenger traffic; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) During May, 2019, passengers carried by Scheduled Domestic Airlines have witnessed a growth of 3.4% as compared to May, 2018.

(b) The country's domestic aviation market is one of the fastest growing in the world and saw double digit growth for more than four years in a row. According to International Air Transport Association (IATA) Report, for December, 2018, the Indian domestic passenger market, in terms of Revenue Passenger Kilometers (RPK), has posted the fastest full year growth for the fourth year in a row (18.6%), followed by China (11.7%).

The domestic air traffic has increased significantly during the last four years. The growth rate witnessed for domestic passengers during the last four years were 21.5%, 21.5%, 18.3% and 13.1% respectively during 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. Three year Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) for domestic passengers handled at all Indian Airports taken together is 17.6%.

(c) and (d) The passenger traffic has increased because of various factors and these include, *inter alia*, induction of new aircraft and discounts offered by the airlines.