

granted 'In Principle' approval on 18th January, 2019 for setting up a New Greenfield Airport at Hollongi, Itanagar. Present status of the project is that Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already initiated preparation of bidding documents in this regard.

(c) The projected date for completion and operationalization of the airport is 30.06.2022. However, completion of airport projects depends upon many factors such as land acquisition, availability of mandatory clearances, financial closure etc. by the airport developer.

#### **Comprehensive aviation infrastructure overhaul**

2699. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned/ propose to plan a comprehensive aviation infrastructure overhaul as air traffic is booming; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the increasing growth in air traffic, the Government had released the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016 on 15.06.2016 to revamp the Indian aviation sector in a significant manner. The aim is to provide an ecosystem for harmonised growth of various aviation sub-sectors, *i.e.* Airlines, Airports, Cargo, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), General Aviation, Aerospace Manufacturing, Skill Development, etc. In compliance with NCAP-2016, many steps have been taken, which include the following:—

- (i) Introduction of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) to stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable.
- (ii) Revival of un-served and under-served airports/airstrips, helipads of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Civil Enclaves and Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) through a budgetary support of ₹4500 crores under RCS-UDAN.
- (iii) Introduction of Greenfield Airport Policy for development of Greenfield Airports across the country by Government or private entities. In line with the Policy, Government of India has granted 'In Principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country.

- (iv) Introduction of 'Scheduled Commuter Operator' under Commercial Air Transport Operations.
- (v) Rationalization of Category-I routes under Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs).
- (vi) Modification in 5/20 requirement so that all airlines can commence international operations provided they deploy 20 aircraft or 20% of total capacity, whichever is higher, for domestic operations.
- (vii) Liberalization of domestic code share points in India within the framework of Air Service Agreements (ASA).
- (viii) With a view to modernize existing airports so as to establish high standards and ease demand pressures on them, 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route has been allowed in brownfield airport projects. This would also facilitate the development of domestic aviation infrastructure. FDI for Scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline has been allowed upto 49% under automatic route. For Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), 100% FDI will continue to be allowed under automatic route. Foreign airlines would be allowed to invest in capital of Indian companies operating scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services up to the limit of 49% of their paid up capital. Such investment is subject to the condition, *inter alia*, that scheduled and non-scheduled Operator's Permit would be granted only to a company the substantial ownership and effective control of which is vested in Indian nationals.
- (ix) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has embarked upon a Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) plan of ₹ 25,000 crores for next 4-5 years for development/modernization/upgradation of terminal buildings of AAI airports in the country.
- (x) Tax and non-tax related changes to encourage investment in MRO facilities, equipment, tooling and training.

#### **Safety audit of airlines in the country**

2700. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is doing with regard to safety of airlines;