

personnel, his life could not be saved. In case of Sujith, even after the National Disaster Rescue Force was called in, the NDRF could not do much to save the young life. Speaking later, the spokesperson of NDRF showed the helplessness of NDRF in such cases, particularly, when the soil is muddy and slushy. It was quite apparent that the NDRF lacks state of the art technology.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wilson, what is your suggestion?

SHRI P. WILSON: Sir, the problem is two-fold. One is that even the NDRF is not equipped with state-of-the-art machinery to perform borewell rescue quickly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is over. Thank you.

SHRI P. WILSON: Secondly, the State Disaster Rescue Forces have no access to...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour.

SHRI P. WILSON: Sir, my suggestion to the hon. Prime Minister who is the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority to engage the services of IITs or leading research body to come up with specialized equipments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Question Hour.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri P. Wilson.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New international airport near Bhubaneswar

*31. SHRI SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering to construct a new international airport near Bhubaneswar;
- (b) if so, what is the status of the said project;
- (c) how much of budgetary allocation has been made towards this project; and
- (d) by when this project would be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Government of Odisha has informed that there is a proposal for construction of a new Greenfield International Airport near Bhubaneswar (Khordha). On the request of State Government of Odisha, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has conducted a pre-feasibility study at 3 locations near Khordha, Odisha but all the 3 suggested sites were not found feasible. AAI has asked the State Government to identify a suitable site for a Greenfield Airport near Bhubaneswar. The State Government is, however, yet to finalize the details of the land requirement.

SHRI SASMIT PATRA: Sir, there is a long-standing demand by the hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, for starting a Bhubaneswar - Dubai direct flight. Will the hon. Minister let us know as to when this direct flight from Bhubaneswar to Dubai would commence, as has been demanded by the hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik?

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I had come very well prepared to respond to the question on making the Bhubaneswar airport an international airport but this is a specific question on the commencement of a flight from Bhubaneswar to Dubai. I am very happy to answer this as well.

Sir, flights are operated by private carriers. Pursuant to a request received from the Chief Minister of Odisha, we have been in touch with private carriers and it is our expectation that one of the private carriers will be able to commence that flight at an early date.

SHRI SASMIT PATRA: Sir, Odisha has long historic and cultural ties and it has maritime trade with Kalingan era with countries like Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Further, there is strong shared Buddhist heritage and religious connect with these countries. Will the hon. Minister like to consider starting direct international flights from Bhubaneswar to Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Singapore to boost these ties and bring about religious and cultural tourism?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must note that the purport of the question is, "whether the Ministry is considering to construct a new international airport near Bhubaneswar". That is the main question. So, you have to be on the main question only.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, I am quite happy to respond to this question as well. Sir, this gives me an opportunity to once again reiterate that there is an ongoing tremendous growth in the civil aviation sector both domestically and internationally. But the decision on whether a particular route is to be operationalised or not is to be taken entirely by the air carrier itself. So, if there is demand on a particular sector, then, I would recommend that the concerned authorities reach out to the air service providers, air carriers, either directly or through us — we will be happy to facilitate that discussion — but the decision on whether a particular route should be operationalised between Bhubaneswar and Jakarta or Bhubaneswar and Colombo will depend entirely on the commercial viability of the proposition. In fact, there are Indian carriers which can fly to these destinations and ASEAN and SAARC countries for which we have provided civil aviation access but the decision on whether to operate a flight or not is a commercial decision.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, Bhubaneswar was the only airport in Odisha so far but last year, the hon. Prime Minister inaugurated another airport at Jharsuguda, which is in western part of Odisha. That airport is still to become full-fledged. Most of the times, at the last moment, the flights are cancelled. After hovering around for minutes together in the air, the flights have to go back either to Kolkata or Bhubaneswar, thereby putting the passengers to harassment. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when this Veer Surendra Sai Airport at Jharsuguda is going to be full-fledged airport.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Sir, it is a full-fledged airport. The issue is of the civil aviation infrastructure. We are happy to cooperate and do that. This question is on the Bhubaneswar airport where there is a real problem. There has been a 30 per cent growth in the number of flights, around 25 per cent growth in the number of passengers and 24 per cent growth in the number of cargo. But that requires additional land. Three sites had been identified by the authorities in Odisha. The Airports Authority of India Limited found these inadequate. The fourth site is under discussion. We will look at it. The Centre is happy to cooperate and look at that. I am willing to go a step further. We are talking about a new international airport in Bhubaneswar which will serve the citizens of Odisha. Normally we do not construct additional new greenfield airport within 150 km of the existing one. Since the existing airport has capacity constraints, we would even be willing to do it. In respect of both, the Centre is willing to cooperate

[Shri Hardeep Singh Puri]

and provide whatever additional infrastructure is required. But the State Government has to provide land. And the land which has been made available so far is not..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right, मंत्री जी, फ्लाइट भी मिनट दर मिनट ऐसे ही टाइम पर लैंड करती है, तो reply भी उसी तरह से होना चाहिए।

Long queues at IGL stations in Delhi

*32. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of long queues at Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) stations in Delhi;

(b) if so, what steps Government has taken to reduce the number of queues at stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has formulated any scheme in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), a City Gas Distribution (CGD) entity in Delhi has been augmenting its Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing infrastructure to commensurate with the growing demand from vehicular segment. Due to Government vision to move towards cleaner fuel, there has been a significant increase in number of CNG run vehicles in Delhi. Presently, IGL is operating 397 CNG stations in Delhi. IGL has already issued 69 Nos. of Letters of Intent (LOI) for setting up new CNG stations under Dealer Owned Dealer Operated (DODO) model to augment its capacity to cater to the increasing numbers of CNG vehicles in Delhi. During Year 2017-18 and 2018-19 IGL has established 22 and 29 CNG Stations respectively in Delhi.

IGL has been taking following steps to reduce the long queues at CNG Stations in Delhi: