

(c) Thoise airport in Nubra Valley has figured in the tentative list of underserved airport under RCS-UDAN version 3.0. Subsequently, under RCS - UDAN version 3.1, Implementing Agency has issued Letter of Intent for Thoise - Srinagar -Thoise and Thoise - Chandigarh - Thoise routes.

Tender for maintenance of airports

335. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has handed over the maintenance of some airports to private entity who has quoted higher rate instead of those who quoted lower rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to call fresh tender for these airports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (e) Government of India accorded 'in-principle' approval for leasing out six airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) viz. Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram airports for Operation, Management and Development through Public Private Partnership (PPP). AAI has issued Letter of Award to the winning bidder on 15.07.2019 in respect of Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru airports who quoted the highest rate. Further, Airports Authority of India (AAI) Board in its meeting held on 05.09.2019 has recommended for leasing out 06 more airports namely Amritsar, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Raipur and Trichy for Operation, Management and Development under Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Financial crunch faced by Civil Aviation companies

336. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has done some analysis of airline companies in the country facing financial crunch in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to help these companies in the interest of passengers and the employees, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of domestic routes that have been cancelled by such companies in the last three years due to non-profitability and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) The Government keeps a close watch on the operational performance and financial parameter of Airline companies. The high cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), the global economic slow down, low yields due to intense competition are some reasons that have contributed to the widening gap between revenue and expenses in the airline industry.

(c) Each airline prepares its business plan on the basis of its own market assessment and liabilities. Mobilizing financial resources and ensuring efficient operations as per business plans are the responsibility of the airline. Government of India has no role in raising funds for private airline companies, as it is an internal matter of the airline.

(d) The Airlines commence new routes and sometimes curtail existing routes depending on passenger demand and economic viability.

Debarring of CPR for conducting recruitment examinations by AAI

337. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) has been debarred by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) from conducting recruitment examinations for the AAI for next three years;

(b) whether the AAI had outsourced the work of filling up vacancies at various levels in several departments of AAI including airport operation, economic planning, human resources, cargo, law and information technology to CPR, if so, the details thereof;