

Each airline however, 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.

Revival of Air India

332. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking any action to revive the Air India which is also known as Maharaja;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to disinvest the Air India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to the disinvestment of Air India. In order to effectively prepare Air India for disinvestment, the Government prepared a plan to bring operational and financial efficiency in Air India. This Plan focuses on the financial and operational efficiencies so that substantial increase in revenue or cost saving could be achieved. Also, operational and financial performance parameters and milestones as fixed by the Government are regularly being reviewed as appropriate.

Rogue or unregulated UAVs

333. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an estimated over six lakh rogue or unregulated Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)/drones are in operation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to counter against such illegal drones to avoid recent incidents like the lethal drone attack on

Saudi Arabia's largest petroleum company and arms dropping by UAVs in Punjab from across the India-Pakistan border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) There have been several reports of widespread usage of drones which are not registered.

(c) Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued regulations on requirements for flying of drones. A preliminary version of the Digital Sky platform has been launched for registration of drones. Action against terrorist/destructive activities by drones is taken by security agencies. MHA has formulated a Standard Operating Procedure for dealing with threats from sub-conventional aerial platforms in the country on 10.05.2019. Further, National Security Council Secretariat(NSCS), in order to strengthen the existing security mechanism, has issued National Counter Rogue Drone Guidelines on 11.09.2019 which have been uploaded on the Ministry of Civil Aviation website.

Inclusion of Mudh air field under the UDAN scheme

334. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Executive Councillors (CEC) Leh has apprised the Ministry for the dire need to act on the long pending demand of subsidized tariff, capping of the airfare or framing flat flight rate for the Ladakhi people and Government employees working in the Ladakh region;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CEC Leh has requested Minister for inclusion of Mudh Air Field in eastern Ladakh in UDAN scheme; and

(c) whether Government is planning to include Thoise Nubra in UDAN scheme and also opening of Thoise Nubra for schedule commercial airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Yes, a letter addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister from Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh regarding rising air fare and inclusion of Nubra Airport in Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) -UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) was received by this Ministry. There have been requests from time to time to develop the airfield/airports in the Ladakh region.