

free to mount services from any point in India including international airport(s) in Odisha to international destinations available under bilateral agreements.

The Government provides a conducive environment for the growth of the civil aviation sector, however, Government does not interfere in the operational plan of the airlines. It is, therefore, upon the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and their commercial viability. Presently, Air Asia Berhad is operating 4 services per week between Bhubaneswar and Kuala Lumpur.

Privatisation of Air India Limited

1948. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is going ahead with the move to privatise Air India Limited;
- (b) if so, the details of the process followed for disinvestment; and
- (c) the details of the companies or persons who have joined the bidding process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) The Government, consequent to the approval by Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM), has issued a Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) inviting Expression of Interest for sale of 100% equity share capital of Air India Limited (AIL) including AIL's 100% shareholding in the Air India Express Limited (AIXL) and 50% shareholding in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) on 27.01.2020. Corrigendums have been issued wherein time period upto 06.03.2020 has been given for submission of written queries on PIM and Share Purchase Agreement (SPA). Last date for release of response to queries on PIM (and SPA, if so provided by the GOI at its discretion) is 16.03.2020. The process has been divided into two stages. In the stage-I, Expression of Interest will be submitted by Interested Bidders and they will be shortlisted based on Eligibility criteria and other terms mentioned in the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM). In the stage-II, shortlisted Interested Bidders will be provided with an Request for Proposal (RFP) and thereafter there will be a transparent bidding process. Expression of Interest in response to PIM by any group or entity will be submitted to the Transaction Adviser only.