

designated points in the country concerned as per the bilateral agreement with the concerned country. Such an arrangement has already been finalised with Sri Lanka. With Bhutan, such arrangement was already in existence before NCAP-2016. Bilateral talks with the remaining SAARC countries can be held only if a positive response is received from their side to our 'open sky' offer.

Facilities for passengers in airports

†1952. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the facilities for the passengers at various airports of the country are yet to be upgraded by the Airports Authority of India (AAI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) Upgradation of passenger facilities at airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, traffic demand / willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports etc. In order to enhance the passenger facilities, AAI has undertaken construction of new terminal building at its various airports which include Agartala, Chennai, Dehradun, Guwahati, Jabalpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Leh, Mangaluru, Patna, Portblair, Pune, Surat and Trichy.

Setting up of airport in Bilaspur

1953. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bilaspur is the second largest city in the State of Chhattisgarh and the seat of the High Court of Chhattisgarh, whether there is any proposal to operationalise the current airstrip and allow commercial passenger travel by setting up of a domestic airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and when is the said proposal likely to be implemented; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.