

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where is Cabinet Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): Sir, I am here. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't know whether we are saying that a Cabinet Minister should be present. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश (कर्नाटक): सर, यह तो हमेशा होता है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will take care of this. Shri P.L. Punia; not present. Shri R.K. Sinha; not present. Dr. Sasmit Patra.

Demand for introduction of a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Dubai

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, Odisha has been witnessing rise in traffic to various international destinations from the State and vice-versa due to increase in the industrial investments and tourist footfalls. This has attracted various international airlines, who have evinced interest to start their international flight operations from Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar to Dubai. However, restriction on landing rights has been a deterrent for such operations by international airlines. In the absence of direct flights from Odisha to other international destinations like Dubai and Middle East countries, the passengers face immense difficulty to go to the desired destinations. This can be addressed, if air connectivity is established between Bhubaneswar and Dubai, which also serves as an international hub for passengers for travelling to other international destinations. Although Air India has international operations from Bhubaneswar to Middle East via New Delhi, it is a costlier and time-consuming option. As there is sufficient passenger load, a direct flight is felt necessary between Bhubaneswar and Dubai. In view of the above, I place my demand before the Union Government and specifically the Ministry of Civil Aviation to impress upon Air India or any other Airlines to introduce direct international flight between Bhubaneswar and Dubai and to meet the growing demand of people of Odisha for international travel. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Sarojini Hembram, not present. Shri R.K. Sinha.