

COVID-19 test for international passengers

330. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international passengers who have to take a connecting domestic flights after landing in India will be able to get themselves tested for COVID-19 at the entry airports; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) To facilitate transfer of international passengers, Ministry of Civil Aviation has allowed RT-PCR testing at the entry airport on pilot basis. The salient features of the guidelines include the following:-

- (i) Airport Operator will create Sample Collection cum Waiting Lounge facility for RT-PCR testing.
- (ii) Waiting Lounge should be located away from the Operational area, should follow all sanitization and social distancing related guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, should have no unauthorized access, should provide necessary amenities to the passengers like Wifi, F&B options, washrooms etc. and should provide cashless options for making payments with regard to testing and various amenities etc.
- (iii) Airport Operator shall provide option to the passengers to either stay at the Waiting Lounge awaiting the test results or to proceed to designated Hotel(s) in order to isolate themselves till the test results are available.
- (iv) Sample collection to be in strict compliance with the protocols established by ICMR and NABL.
- (v) Passengers to do online booking of the RT-PCR test through respective websites or other appropriate online platforms. A well-defined flow to be laid down by airport operators for smooth conduct of testing at airports.
- (vi) Passport of the passenger to be retained by the State authority at the Sample Collection cum Waiting Lounge till the test results are available.

- (vii) If the test result is negative, passenger will be permitted to exit the Waiting Lounge and proceed to the Departures to catch the connecting flight. However, if the result is positive, the passenger will be processed in line with applicable ICMR protocols by the State authorities.
- (viii) No passenger should be able to make an unauthorized exit.

Privatisation of airports

331. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has drawn an elaborate plan for privatisation of airports; and
- (b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 8th November, 2018 accorded 'In Principle approval' for leasing of six airports namely, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru for Operations, Management and Development under Public Private Partnership (PPP). Airports Authority of India (AAI) has completed the bidding process for all the six airports and with the approval of the Union Cabinet, AAI has issued Letter of Award in respect of Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru airports on 15.07.2019 and in respect of Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati airports on 01.09.2020.

Further, AAI Board has recommended six more airports *viz.* Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Varanasi, Raipur and Amritsar for Operations, Management and Development through Public Private partnership mode.

Disinvestment of Air India

332. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to postpone disvestment of Air India beyond the current Financial Year 2020-21 due to COVID-19; and
- (b) if so, the details and the present status in this regard?