

(c) what is the total revenue that Government has accrued from the airports run by private entities; and

(d) what is the total revenue that Government has accrued from the airports run by the AAI?

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.

(c) AAI has accrued ₹ 11161.17 crore and ₹ 18271.82 crore from Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) and Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) respectively from the year 2006-2007 to 2019-2020.

(d) The Government has accrued ₹4330.15 crore from the Airports run by the AAI during the year 2019-2020.

Impact of COVID-19 on aviation sector

352. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted any study on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the aviation sector;

(b) what is the total loss of revenue, employment and assets in the commercial and cargo sectors caused by the pandemic; and

(c) what steps the Ministry has taken to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Based on the information received from the stakeholders, the impact of COVID-19 on the civil aviation sector are as under:–

1. There have been regulatory restrictions on flight operations in domestic and international sectors leading to severe curtailment in operations and sub-optimal aircraft utilisation.
2. The domestic traffic has reduced from 5,85,30,038 during March-July 2019 to 1,20,84,952 during March-July 2020.
3. The international traffic has reduced from 93,45,469 during March-July in 2019 to 11,55,590 during March-July 2020.
4. The revenue of Indian carriers has reduced from INR 25,517 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 3,651 crore during April-June 2020.
5. The revenue of airport operators has reduced from INR 5,745 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 894 crore during April-June 2020.
6. In respect of Air India, the total revenue has reduced from INR 7,066 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 1,531 crore during April-June 2020.
7. The employment at airlines has reduced from 74,887 as on 31 Mar 2020 to 69,589 as on 31 Jul. 2020.
8. The employment at airports has reduced from 67,760 as on 31 Mar 2020 to 64,514 as on 31 Jul. 2020.
9. The employment at ground handling agencies has reduced from 37,720 as on 31 Mar. 2020 to 29,254 as on 31 Jul 2020.
10. The employment at cargo operators has reduced from 9,555 as on 31 Mar. 2020 to 8,538 as on 31 Jul 2020.

(c) All efforts have been made to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the aviation sector. Some of the measures taken to support the aviation sector include *inter-alia*:–

1. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, domestic air services have been restarted in a calibrated manner. Initially only one third (33%) of the summer schedule 2020

was allowed to be operated which was subsequently increased to 45% on 26 Jun 2020 and then to 60% on 02 Sep. 2020.

2. Operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) flights were allowed without the above-mentioned restrictions.
3. Exclusive air-links or Air Bubbles have been established with countries which include Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Qatar, Maldives, UAE, UK and USA. These are temporary arrangements aimed at restarting international passenger services while regular international flights remain suspended due to COVID-19.
4. Promoted private investments in existing and new Airports through the PPP route.
5. Regularly engaged with foreign aircraft lessors and financiers to ensure that there were no premature withdrawals of leased aircraft from Indian carriers.
6. Adequate care taken to ensure that cargo terminals at all major airports were operational, whenever required.
7. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission, GST on Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) has been reduced to 5% and contracting of work to Indian MROs incentivized with zero-rated GST from 01 Apr. 2020.
8. Encouraging Indian carriers to increase their share in air cargo traffic.
9. Route rationalisation in the Indian airspace in coordination with Indian Air Force for efficient airspace management, shorter routes and reduced fuel burn.

Modernisation of airports in North Eastern States

353. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade and modernise airports situated in North Eastern States of the country, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any such work has been undertaken, if so, how many airports have been upgraded and modernised during the last three years, the details thereof?