

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.

- (iv) Promoted private investments in existing and new Airports through the PPP route.
- (v) Regularly engaged with foreign aircraft lessors and financiers to ensure that there were no premature withdrawals of leased aircraft from Indian carriers.
- (vi) Adequate care taken to ensure that cargo terminals at all major airports were operational, whenever required.
- (vii) Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission, GST on Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) has been reduced to 5% and contracting of work to Indian MROs incentivised with zero-rated GST from 01 Apr 2020.
- (viii) Encouraging Indian carriers to increase their share in international air cargo traffic.
- (ix) Route rationalisation in the Indian airspace in coordination with Indian Air Force for efficient airspace management, shorter routes and reduced fuel burn.

Social distancing norms

326. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of social distancing and other safety norms prescribed by Government to airline operators;
- (b) whether airlines have implemented social distancing norms inside aircraft and the details thereof;
- (c) whether complaints have been received that airlines have not followed social distancing norms inside aircraft and the details and penalties imposed thereon; and
- (d) whether Government has capped operations for airlines and the details of losses accrued by the airlines for the same and whether Government has also capped the fares for passengers and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Circular dated 23.03.2020 titled as 'Social distancing measures by airlines and airport operators' and Order dated 31.05.2020 titled as 'Directions for protecting health of persons involved in air travel' for airline operators, airports operators and ground handling agents. DGCA has not received any non-compliance report on the part of airlines, so far.

(d) Ministry of Civil Aviation *vide* Order dated 21.05.2020 permitted recommencement of domestic civil flight operations with effect from 25.05.2020 to a limited extent of 1/3rd of their respective approved capacity of Summer Schedule, 2020. Since then, Ministry has been reviewing periodically recommencement of domestic operations, prevailing COVID-19 situation and passenger demand for air travel. Based on the periodical review of operations, Ministry of Civil Aviation have enhanced domestic air operations from 33% to 45% and thereafter to 60% of approved capacity of Summer Schedule, 2020. On account of COVID-19, civil aviation sector including airlines have been affected adversely. Keeping in view the interest of the passengers, financial health of the aviation sector and present crisis of COVID-19, Ministry of Civil Aviation, as a temporary measure, has specified the range of sector-wise air fares for a specified period, presently applicable upto 24th November, 2020.

Induction of Dornier-228 aircrafts under UDAN scheme

327. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether DGCA has issued modification document to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the operation of under UDAN scheme;

(b) if so, the special features of the modified version of Dornier-228 which would make the aircraft worthy of operation;

(c) the number of Dornier-228 which are proposed to be inducted by the Airlines initially; and

(d) whether HAL has built up the capabilities for production of Dornier-228 aircrafts as per the demands and whether the aircraft would be cost-competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation