

(d) whether Government has ascertained the spread of COVID-19 through passenger activities at airports and if so, the details of positive cases and the precautions taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Body temperature screening of passengers is being done at all the airports in the country.

(b) Thermal screening of the passengers is conducted at the airports and there is no shortage of thermal scanners at airports.

(c) Quarantine facilities are provided and managed by the concerned State Governments.

(d) No Sir. Such data is not collected by this Ministry. Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued detailed general instructions and guidelines to be followed by the passengers and specific operating guidelines for major stakeholders (Airlines, Airports, Ground Handling Agencies, etc.). These guidelines specify certain safety measures, which include Protection kit to each passenger (Three layered masks, face shields and sanitizers), as the safety measures, to contain the transmission of COVID-19 during air travel. Further, High quality High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters for recirculation of air are available in the aircrafts. Also, the duration of air travel is normally of limited hours. It is very difficult to ascertain the specific location of contracting of COVID-19, which may occur beyond the ecosystem of Civil Aviation

Privatisation of Air India

1138. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any feasibility study before initiating the sale of Air India and the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has explored any alternative options for feasible operations of the flag carrier than initiating outright sale proceedings: if so; the details thereof and if not, the details therefor; and

(c) whether Government has taken monetization initiatives to raise capital for Air India, through the sale of its assets which have been unused or can be sold and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) NITI Aayog in its recommendations, on Strategic Disinvestment of the Central Public Sector Enterprises in May 12, 2017 had given the rationale for the disinvestment of Air India and referred to the fragile finances of the company, among various other reasons. Further, NITI Aayog in its report on Air India has stated that further financial support in a mature and competitive aviation market would not be the best use of scarce financial resources of the Government.

(b) The Government had approved a Turn Around Plan (TAP) / Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) in 2012 for operational and financial turnaround of Air India and infused an equity of ₹ 30520.21 crore over a period of eight years (FY 2011-12 to FY 2018-19). However, the debt of Air India has increased from Rs, 45683.72 crore (FY 2011-12) to ₹ 58255.89 crore (FY 2018-19). NITI Aayog referred to the fragile finances of the company, among various other reasons & recommended the strategic disinvestment of Air India. Further, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in its meeting held on 28.06.2017, had given an in-principle approval for considering strategic disinvestment of Air India and its five subsidiaries.

(c) Yes Sir. Out of 111 parcel of properties which Air India possessed, Air India has monetized 38 properties fully and 04 properties partially through MSTC Ltd. and has received an amount of ₹ 637.56 crore (approx) till 31/08/2020. Further, Air India also realizes a rental income of about ₹ 110 crore per annum.

Utkela and Jeypur airstrips in Odisha

1139. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the status of developing the Utkela and Jeypur airstrips in Odisha under UDAN scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency, in the first round of bidding, awarded Jeypore & Utkela airports in Odisha in the network for operations of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) flights. Jeypore and Utkela airports are being developed under "Revival of unserved and underserved airports" scheme. Rs 8.113 crore has been incurred for Utkela Airport and Rs 17.565 crore has been incurred for Jeypore airport, as on 31-08-2020. Subsequently, due to non-compliance of Selected Airline Operator (SAO) Agreement by SAOs, the awarded networks were cancelled. However, if any valid bid is received in future rounds of bidding under UDAN, same shall be considered as per the scheme document.