Privatisation of airports

1140. SHRI P. WILSON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Government has decided to privatise the airports across the country during this critical situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the bidders and bidding process;

(c) the reasons for the privatisation of airports in India suddenly and whether the services of the existing employees will be affected and whether they will be protected suddenly; and

(d) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has failed to handle/maintain the airports across the country, whether any loss sustained, if so, the details thereof?

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 PPP. Airports Authority of India (AAI) initiated the bidding process and invited bids from eligible bidders on 14.12.2018 through a single-stage global competitive bidding through e-tendering. AAI received good response from various reputed international/domestic bidders. A total of 31 Qualified Bids were received for six airports. The Financial Bids of the 31 qualified bidders were opened on 25.02.2019 for five airports excluding Guwahati. Due to an interim order of the Hon'ble High Court of Guwahati, AAI opened the Financial Bid of Guwahati airport on 26.2.2019. M/s Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) quoted highest per passenger fee for the six airports and with the approval of the Union Cabinet, AAI has issued Letter of Award on 15.07.2019 in respect of Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru airports and on 01.09.2020 in respect of Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati airports.

(c) The decision for undertaking Operations, Management and Development at the six AAI airports has been a result of gradual efforts made in this direction since the successful implementation of the PPP projects at Delhi and Mumbai airports in 2006. Based on the experience of Delhi and Mumbai airports, AAI has been evaluating and floating tenders on different models since 2013 for operation and maintenance of select airports under PPP but the efforts could not succeed due to inadequate response from bidders. Thereafter, on 8th November, 2018, the Union Cabinet granted 'in-principle'

approval for leasing of six airports after following the due process. Services of AAI employees will not be affected and their services will continue to be protected in case they choose to remain with AAI.

(d) In order to meet the growing demand for airport infrastructure, participation of private sector is being encouraged so that, AAI will not be required to invest in development of these airports. The funds generated from the revenues received from the Concessionaires will be utilized for further development of other airports. These projects will bring efficiency in delivery, expertise, enterprise and professionalism apart from harnessing the private investment in the public sector. This will also result in enhanced revenues to the AAI, which may lead to further investment by AAI at Tier-II and Tier-III cities and economic development in these areas in terms of job creation and related infrastructure.

Contractual employees in Air India

†1141. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has decided to send its employees on leave without pay;

(b) the number of employees working as contractual staff/contract labour basis in the Ministry, whose contract have been terminated after lockdown and due to which they are jobless;

(c) whether economic relief was provided to such contractual employees during the lockdown period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is not a violation of labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Board of Directors of Air India in its 102nd meeting held on 07.07.2020 has approved a scheme whereby employees can opt to take leave

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.