

operated by Air India/Air India Express and 1938 has been operated by private Indian carriers. The remaining flights have been operated by foreign carriers.

(c) The number of persons registering for repatriation with the Indian missions/embassies is dynamic. As India enters into Air Bubble arrangements with different countries, registrations from such countries are no longer required. As per information provided by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), till 31.08.2020, more than 11 lakh Indians (excluding land border crossings) have returned to India under the Vande Bharat Mission.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The total revenue accrued to Air India group from the services provided under Vande Bharat Mission is ₹2556.60 crore as on 31.08.2020.

Privatisation of Thiruvananthapuram airport

1145. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any objection from the State Government of Kerala over handing over the Thiruvananthapuram airport to a private enterprise;

(b) whether the State Government of Kerala has put forwarded any suggestion to take over the management of airport, the details thereof;

(c) what are the criteria Government set for handing over the airport management to private companies;

(d) whether Government has taken any measures to avoid monopoly of any particular company to take over the management of airports in the country; and

(e) the details of privatised airports?

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. Government of Kerala requested

the Government of India (GoI) to allow them to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to take over and run the Thiruvananthapuram Airport. GoI considered the request of Government of Kerala and offered the options of participating in the bidding process with a Right of First Refusal (RoFR) or the GoK would be invited to be the part of selection process to address the concerns of the State Government. GoK accepted the option of participating in the bidding process with the provision of RoFR with price range parameter of 10%. Accordingly, GoK designated entity *i.e.* Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) participated in the bidding process. However, the bid quoted by KSIDC was below the 10% price range parameter quoted by the highest bidder. Therefore, as per the provisions of bidding document, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued Letter of Award to the highest bidder on 01.09.2020 in respect of Thiruvananthapuram airport.

(c) The 'Per Passenger Fee (PPF)' payable to AAI was adopted as the bidding parameter for selection of the successful bidder during the PPP process of recently bid out six airports.

(d) Presently, there is no monopoly situation in the airport sector. There are many existing private airport operators *viz.* GMR Group, GVK Group, Fairfax Group and State Government JVCs such as CIAL, KIAL, MIHAN, CHIAL who are operating brown field airports besides AAI. In addition, new greenfield airport at Jewar is being developed by a new operator namely Zurich Group. These private operators handled 53.92% of total air traffic of the country in the year 2019-20. With a view to further bring in new domestic and international players and to increase competition in the airport sector, the criteria of airport experience was done away with and it was made neither a prerequisite for bidding nor post-bid requirement while carrying out PPP of recently awarded six airports. This step of the Government enlarged the spectrum of bidders through inclusion of players from other sectors which resulted into a very good response in the form of a total of 32 bids.

(e) Airports Authority of India leased out Delhi and Mumbai airports in 2006 for operation, management and development under PPP. In addition, AAI has also awarded Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru airports on 15.07.2019 and Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram airports on 01.09.2020 for operation, management development of these airports under PPP mode.