

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) In order to improve air connectivity in North East Region Alliance Air has introduced ATR-42 services *w.e.f.* December, 2002. This has increased the available of seats from 7518 to 8932 per week and the number of flights from 74 to "< 29 per week.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal from the Government of Nagaland for construction of a new airport at Chiethu near Kohima. Airports Authority of India has carried out a preliminary feasibility study in this regard.

Ahmedabad-New York Direct Flight

†2178. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to operate a direct flight of Air India to New York (without changing plane) from Ahmedabad; and

(b) the number of passengers who travel through the flights of Air India and Indian Airlines every month and the number thereof during the three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) In the current schedule, Air India has extended six flights on the New Jersey/Paris/Mumbai sector and one service on the Chicago/London/Mumbai sector to Ahmedabad with no change of plane and the passengers booked to travel on these flights need not change plane at any of the transit points and can travel right through to Ahmedabad. However, for travel out of Ahmedabad, change of plane is required at Mumbai.

(b) The number of passengers carried by Air India and Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air) during the last three years are as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[23 December, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

AIR INDIA	(In lakhs.)		
Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
No. of Passengers	32.95	31.26	33.94
Average No. of Passengers (Per month)	2.74	2.60	2.82
INDIAN AIRLINES			
Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
No. of Passengers	76.95	70.54	70.95
Average No. of Passengers (Per month)	6.41	5.88	5.91

Impact of open Sky Policy on Tourism Sector

2179. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'open sky' policy adopted by Government is putting adverse effect upon tourism sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider its policy; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for minimizing its impact on tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary, the limited "open sky" policy declared for the period December, 2003 to February, 2004 was on the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism and is aimed at meeting the extra rush during the peak tourist season.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.