

[5 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether there has been any proposal in this regard from the State Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There is no proposal, at present, for setting up of an airport in Kanyakumari.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A proposal was received in January, 1999 from Tourism Minister, State Government of Tamil Nadu to set up an airport in Kanyakumari. After examination, the proposal was not found feasible because Kanyakumari is located at an aerial distance of 80 Kms. from Trivandrum International airport.

New Civil Aviation Policy

1663. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to announce a New Civil Aviation Policy in the near future;

(b) if so, the contours of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the said policy would offer level playing field for all participants in the aviation sector including development of infrastructure; and

(d) by when the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Government has constituted a five-member Committee on 21st July, 2003 to prepare a road map for the civil aviation sector that will provide the basis for a New Civil Aviation policy.

Upgradation of Madurai Airport

1664. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of modernization/upgradation of Madurai Airport is under consideration of Government;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the status of its implementation;
- (c) whether Government would consider expanding the runway in Trichy and Coimbatore; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For extension of runway by 460 meters and strengthening of runway for operation of AB-320/B-737-800 type of aircraft, the State Government of Tamil Nadu is yet to hand over the required land to Airports Authority of India. Action has already been initiated for construction of new Terminal building to cater to 500 passengers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Trichy Airport—Scheme for extension of runway from 1860 meters to 2440 meters and strengthening of existing runway, apron, taxi-track for operation of B-737-800 type of aircraft have been approved at a cost of Rs. 25.93 crore and work is likely to commence by December, 2003.

Coimbatore Airport—Scheme for extension of runway from 2290 meters to 2990 meters and strengthening of existing runway, apron, taxi-track for operation of B-767-400 type of aircraft have been approved at a cost of Rs. 42.00 crores. The work for extension of runway on eastern side by 300 meters and strengthening of existing runway is likely to start by October, 2003. Work for extension of runway on western side by 400 meters is held up due to non-handling over of land by the state Government.

Disposal of IC-814 Aircraft

1665. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to phase out Airbus-300s and keep only Airbus-320s;
- (b) if so, the number of Airbuses that are lying with Air India and India Airlines for disposal;
- (c) whether the IC-814 aircraft has not yet been disposed off since its process began in 1999; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?