

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) At present, Surat is air linked with Delhi only by Alliance Air.

Operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and flights are being operated by concerned airlines on the basis of commercial viability subject to adherence of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

#### **Renaming of Madurai International Airport**

1275. SHRI PRAMOD KUREEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plan to name the Madurai International Airport in the name of either Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar or Immanuel Sekharan;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) At present there is no plan to rename the Madurai International airport in the name of either Baba Saheb Dr B. R. Ambedkar or Immanuel Sekharan.

#### **Raxaul Airport**

1276. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a necessity to review Government's stand with regard to making Raxaul Airport functional in view of the unpleasant activities in the bordering areas being undertaken by China; and

(b) if so, by when the airport is likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Raxaul airport in Bihar belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI). Since, there is no traffic potential, commercial viability and firm commitment of airlines operators to operate through this airport, at present, there is no proposal to start operation at this airport.

#### **Financial crunch in Air India**

1277. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India is facing financial crunch for the last two/three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government/Management of Air India have taken any steps to improve the financial performance of the Company;
- (d) whether the Government has sanctioned Rs.250 crore as advance infusion; and
- (e) steps taken/being taken by Government to improve the financial performance of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India incurred a loss of Rs. 2226.16 crore during 2007-08, of Rs. 5548.26 crore during 2008-09, of Rs. 5552.55 crore during 2009-10 and the estimated loss for 2010-11 is Rs. 6994 crore.

(c) and (e) In order to improve its financial performance, Air India has taken various steps such as Rationalization of routes to cut losses, return of leased capacity, reduction of contractual employment, review of all agreement between management and staff on all technical and operational matters and constitution of Turn Around Committee (which includes representatives from senior management and unions) to look at all areas of reduction.

(d) Pending payment of outstanding dues for VVIP operations, Government has paid an amount of Rs.500 crore on ad-hoc basis from the equity provision of Rs.1200 crore to Air India.

#### **Clearance for Aerocity project in Delhi**

1278. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the statutory clearances that are ideally required for the upcoming Aerocity project near the IGI Airport in New Delhi;
- (b) whether the private concessionaire which is building the Aerocity has received all the mandatory clearances; and
- (c) whether there are any issues regarding the height of the buildings that are coming up as part of the Aerocity Hospitality district?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of Operation, Management and Development Agreement and State Support Agreement entered into between M/s Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (DIAL) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Government of India (GOI) respectively, DIAL was to submit a Master Plan for the development of IGI Airport, which was accordingly approved by AAI/GOI.