

[English]

International Airports

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*107. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI S.RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop some more airports for international operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some private/foreign airlines have submitted proposals to operate international flights from these airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India is developing 12 model airports in addition to Ahmedabad and Goa to cater to limited international operations.

(c) to (e). According to the existing policy private airlines are not permitted to operate international flights from/to India. Most foreign airlines operating to this country have been permitted to operate scheduled services under bilateral agreements reached with respective countries

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Sir, many people from Hyderabad who are working in foreign countries are regularly going to foreign countries. There is a great demand from the people to make Hyderabad Airport an International Airport, for their convenience. The survey will prove that it would be profitable if Hyderabad Airport is made an international Airport which will also remove congestion from Mumbai and Delhi Airports.

Therefore, my supplementary question would be, whether Hyderabad Airport would be upgraded for handling international operations, in view of the public demand. If so, when and if not, the reasons therefor.

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your question. You want that Hyderabad Airport is to be made an International Airport, all right, the hon. Minister will answer.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : So far as construction of a national airport or upgrading it to an international airport is concerned, it depends upon the facilities available for it. My department has no problem in converting it into an international airport if the technical Committee gives its clearance for expansion of the runway.

[English]

Once the Technical Committee allows it, we will take it up.

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : There are certain international routes on which Air India and Indian Airlines are not operating because they are not profitable. Why does the Government not permit private airlines to operate in such routes?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : We are definitely operating wherever profitable routes are there. We are operating even on non-profitable routes. As far as private airlines are concerned, they do not want to operate on non-profitable routes. They want to operate only on profitable routes. The operation of India Airlines on non-profitable routes is 17 per cent. But whether they are profitable routes or non-profitable routes, our concern is only service to the people and passengers.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nagpur airport is one of the 12 model airports as mentioned by the hon'ble Minister. This model airport is adjacent to the old airport and it is in a very bad condition. It seems that the fund allocated for this project have been largely misappropriated. There is no arrangement for cleanliness of toilets etc. The sound system is out of order. Announcements made by the officials are not heard. It is in very bad condition and should be totally...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not asking the question, Shri Meghe.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a huge amount of money has been misappropriated in construction of this airport. Its construction is of inferior quality. It can be called a non-model airport.

MR. SPEAKER : You are repeating the same thing.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will order an inquiry into it and improve the condition of this airport. Would you, in real terms, make it a model airport because the precious wealth of the country is being misused in this way.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said that it lacks facilities...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the reply.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I agree with him. We are constructing model airports. I have not said that it has already been constructed. We have only made a declaration.

[English]

We are taking up this work. I will definitely look into whatever complaint is there

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the demand for upgrading the Srinagar Airport to an international airport and providing a route for Moscow-Tashkent-Srinagar-Delhi has been lying pending for the last 10-15 years? Secondly, just now you have mentioned that private airlines are plying on profitable routes and not on non-profitable routes. What prompted the Government to allow private companies in public sector? The policy of the Government was to strengthen the public sector but you have given profitable routes to private sector and kept non-profitable routes for the Public Sector.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Perhaps, Mr. Kar has come well prepared for this supplementary.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : No, it is not so.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Whether the Government is contemplating to convert Srinagar airport into an international airport? The issue of Kashmir is being discussed at international level and our Government is trying to show that Kashmir is a part of our country. Our department is making efforts to air link Srinagar with other parts of the world. In respect of the route for Moscow, I would like to say that the Civil Aviation Department will decide it on the basis of the number of passengers. The areas where there is more traffic would be linked with this airports.

12.00 hrs.

Secondly, the hon. Member has said that private airlines do not operate on non-profitable routes. I would like to say that it is being monitored on monthly basis. There is a limit that the Private operators will have to use 12 percent non-commercial sector. I have instructed my department to take immediate action against those private airlines which are not operating on such routes. I would take action if any such matter is brought to my notice.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Development of Tourist Places of Orissa

*102. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the State Government of Orissa for development of some districts into tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). The Govt. of Orissa has identified South of Puri Town upto Chilka Lake as Special Tourism Area for development of Tourism in the State.

In addition the Department of Tourism has identified two Circuits in Orissa for intensive development. These are

1. Bhubaneswar-Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udaygiri-Kendrapara-Chandbali-Bhadrak.
2. Harishankar-Narsinghanath-Hirakud-Sambalpur-Bed Yyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit).

The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt. officials has prioritised 8 projects for central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 250 lakhs during 1996-97. The details are

- (a) Wayside amenities at Ghatgaon.
- (b) Wayside amenities at Satpada.
- (c) Refurbishment of monuments/heritage sites at Ratnagiri.
- (d) Tourist Reception Centre and Information Centre at Ratnagiri with provision for drinking water, toilet facilities, Snack Bar and Souvenir Shop.
- (e) Refurbishment of heritage site at Lalitgiri.
- (f) Tourist Reception Centre and Information Centre at Lalitgiri with provision for drinking water, toilet facilities, Snack Bar and Souvenir Shop.
- (g) Refurbishment of monuments/heritage site at Udaygiri and
- (h) Tourist Reception and Cultural Information Centre at Kendra Parha.

A Detailed proposal for the wayside amenity at Ghatgaon has been received from the State Govt.

The Department of Tourism also prepared a project proposal for infrastructure development covering Dhauli, Nandankanan, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri, Lalitgiri, Pathrajpur, Kendra parha, Gupti, Bhadrak and Jajpur in Orissa at an estimated investment of Rs. 348 crores which has been posed for external aid.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Mining Sector

*106. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited