

an>

Title: Need to review the proposal to privatise the airports under the Airports Authority of India.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The Government has proposed to privatize four airports under the Airports Authority of India under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, namely, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Jaipur, all-profit making airports. There was a similar proposal towards the end of the UPA-II regime, which was ultimately dropped. It may be mentioned that Kolkata and Chennai airports were modernized recently at a cost of Rs. 2300 crores and 2100 crores respectively. The privatization would mean handing over the assets built with government money to private parties. It would also affect the job security of the employees. The proposal has been opposed by all the Unions and Associations of Airports Authority of India. The CAG in its last report on the privatization of Delhi airport had mentioned how private parties gained at the cost of the government.

I urge the Government to drop this anti-worker proposal in the interest of the air passengers for whom privatization would mean higher airport charges.