

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the salient features of the airspace sharing settlement;
- (d) the extent to which time, fuel will be saved after the implementation of such settlement; and
- (e) the manner in which the passengers will be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) The concept of Flexible Use of Airspace (FUA) for sharing of airspace between civil and military users has been agreed in principle. The Government has accorded approval for constituting a High Level Airspace Policy Body (HLAPB) with the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation as its Chairperson, and also for establishing sub-committees by the HLAPB to develop modalities for implementing the concept of FUA.

(c) Salient features of the airspace sharing settlement includes establishment of three levels of airspace management, *viz.*, ASM Level 1, the strategic level, wherein the per-determined airspace structures will be established, ASM Level 2, the pre-tactical level, wherein day-to-day allocation of airspace according to user requirements will be carried out and ASM Level 3, the tactical level, wherein real-time use of airspace allowing a safer and fuel efficient civil and military flights is effected. The airspace sharing settlement also includes establishment of an Airspace Management Cell (AMC) for conducting ASM Level 2 operations in close coordination with Central Flow Management Unit.

(d) and (e) The concept of FUA is expected to bring in significant savings in terms of fuel and air travel time. Flexible and direct routing between major city pairs alone is expected to result in fuel savings of 20,20,380 kg. per annum and in reduction of CO₂ emission of 63,93,600 kg. per annum. The expected reduction in the flying time for passengers owing to shorter routing/connectivity to destination and resultant on-time performances of airlines, is likely to benefit passengers to a large extent.

Shrinking of Air Traffic

3280. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Air Traffic has shrunk by 3 per cent in the financial year 2011-12;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of passengers carried by Domestic Airlines during 2012 was 58.80 million as against 60.70 million during 2011, thereby registering a decline in growth by 3.04%.

(c) The prime reason for this decline is that Kingfisher Airlines was also operating a sizeable number of flights, carrying considerable number of passengers thereby contributing to the growth of traffic. However, the airline started withdrawing its flight on various routes gradually and eventually stopped operating from October, 2012 resulting in falling growth of passenger traffic. On the other hand, the passengers carried by other airlines has shown only marginal hike in the growth.

(d) The Government has taken several measures like allowing direct import of Aviation Turbine Fuel permitted for Indian Carriers as actual users, permitted foreign airlines to participate upto 49 percent in the equity of an air transport undertaking, allowing ECB for working capital requirement of airline industry for, a period of one year, subject to a total ceiling of US \$ 1 billion and tax concession for parts of aircraft and testing equipment for third party maintenance, repair and overhaul of civil aircraft.

Improvement in air connectivity to N.E. States

3281. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that while it takes only 3-4 hours by air from the principle metros in India to reach any of the South East Asian capitals, it takes several hours to reach North East Indian State capitals, such as Kohima, Itanagar, Aizwal, Gangtok etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to improve air connectivity and reduce the time taken to reach the North Eastern region and other similar outlying areas of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) Guwahati, Imphal, Aizwal and Agartala are the State