

Passenger trips to grow: Aviation Ministry

NEW DELHI

The Aviation Ministry is targeting a five-fold increase in passenger trips to one billion per annum in 15-20 years in view of the huge growth opportunities the sector holds, Union Minister Jayant Sinha said on Wednesday. The Minister of State for Civil Aviation said that the government is working on steps such as developing new greenfield airports and skilling manpower to achieve this target.

“A target of billion passenger trips in the next 15 to 20 years is very realisable and is in fact a realistic target that we should be looking for,” he said here at the AIMA event. He also said that the billion passenger trips would not come from aircraft alone but also from helicopters, sea planes and passenger drones.

Many of these have still to be manufactured in the country and it provides tremendous business opportunities to start and develop these new technologies, he said. Elaborating on passenger drones, Sinha said this is a big industry and in the coming years, it is likely to



FLYING HIGH: A five-fold increase in the trips is being targeted in view of the huge opportunities the sector holds.

touch a trillion dollar mark. “We in India have the opportunity to be a leader in this. We are already working on drone regulations so we can set standards, develop different drone technologies,” he said.

“Like we have made air travel affordable to common people wearing ‘hawai chappals, similarly we can go from auto rickshaws to air rickshaws, that is the opportunity,” he added. Further the Minister said that the bil-

lion passenger trips would open tremendous opportunities for growth and investments for businesses. “In 2013, the the total number of passenger trips was about 100 million. In 2017, we are going to get close to 200 mil-

lion passenger trips,” he said, adding that the total revenues of the airline industry last year was close to Rs 2 lakh crore. Indian railways and the telecom sector also have same level of revenues each, he said. PTI