

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3603
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2005
EXPANSION OF MADURAI AIRPORT
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of expansion of Madurai airport;
- (b) whether there is any demand to convert the Madurai airport into an international airport and to also introduce a direct flight from Madurai to New Delhi and Sri Lanka; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

- MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

- (a) The work of strengthening and extension of runway and associated works is in progress and likely to be completed by July, 2006.
- (b) and (c) There have been demands to declare Madurai airport as international airport and also to introduce flights from Madurai to domestic and international sectors especially Gulf and South East Asian countries. No sufficient traffic potential is anticipated for operation of international air services to/ from Madurai. No foreign airline from Sri Lanka or other countries have evinced interest for operation to/ from Madurai. Therefore, Government has no proposal at present to declare Madurai airport as international airport. The existing traffic demand at Madurai is adequately catered by various airlines and there is no sufficient traffic potential to warrant more direct flights to domestic sectors including Delhi. However, Indian Airlines already operates direct international flights to Gulf and South East Asian countries from Chennai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Kochi and Trivandrum airports which are in the vicinity of Madurai.