

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4367  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2010  
DEVELOPMENT OF AIRPORTS IN WEST BENGAL  
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for the development of Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar airports, West Bengal and for inter connectivity of these airports with various parts of the country; and

(b) the time by which these airports will be made operational?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Cooch Behar is an operational airport of Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has already developed Cooch Behar airport in West Bengal for operation of ATR-42 type of aircraft operations alongwith a new Terminal Building for handling 100 passengers at a time. Presently, there are no scheduled flight services through Cooch Behar Airport and no Airline Operator has so far indicated willingness to start scheduled services. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. The Feasibility Report of the Consultant for revival of Balurghat Airpot has indicated that there is no scope or potential for development of this airport. Further there is no demand from any Airlines for operation of regular scheduled flights to this airport. The Government, therefore, do not have any proposal for development of this airport. As per the records, there is no airport at Purulia and the Government does not have any proposal for development of an airport at Purulia.