

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5578

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2010

NEED FOR MORE AIRPORTS

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

- (a) whether there is a need to develop more airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether most of the airports in the country are underutilized;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the actual passenger and cargo traffic handled by each airport during each of the last three years;and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for optimum utilization of these airports?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) keeping in view the enormous growth in air traffic, which has put pressure on airport infrastructure, Government had pronounced a policy for greenfield airports in April,2008 to encourage infusion of greater investment in airport sector. In addition, a Feasibility Study has been carried out by M/s. RITES for operationalization of non-operational airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI). According to the recommendations of M/s. RITES, 13 such airports have potential for development. In addition, AAI has also signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with concerned State Governments to develop airports/ airstrips of State Governments for schedule operations.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Airport wise passenger and cargo traffic at airports during the last three years i.e., (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) is at Annexure I.

(f) The Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has recommended the following norms for capacity creation at small and big airport:

(i) Small airports (< 5.0 Million passengers per annum)- 10th year from Planning year; and

(ii) Big airports (> 5.0 Million passengers per annum)- 7th year from Planning year.

From the above, it can be inferred that capacity is created upto 10 years in respect of small airports and upto 7 years for big airports. In confirmation with these IMG norms, none of the airports are underutilized.