

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3767
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2009
OPENING OF SMALL AIRPORTS
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a survey to find possibilities of opening small airports to link local areas with State capitals;
- (b) if so, the details of the survey conducted;
- (c) the details of new air routes started during each of the last three years, Statewise and those proposed for 2009-10;
- (d) whether food/eatables served to passengers at the airports are not of standard quality; and
- (e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) No, Sir. However study/ survey are conducted by Airports Authority of India from time to time based on demand from various quarters to operationalize non-functional airports.
- (c) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.
- (d) & (e) No, Sir. However, from time to time, measures are taken to improve the standard of food/ eatables served to passengers by the concerned airlines/ airport operators.