

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:544
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011
STATUS OF AIRPORTS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airports in the country alongwith the number of airports under construction;
- (b) the criteria and norms laid down for according an airport the status of an international airport; and
- (c) the time-frame within which the under construction airports are likely to become functional?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS & MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (c) At present, there are 455 airports/ airstrips in the country. Government of India has granted `in-principle` approval for setting up of greenfield airports at Mopa in Goa; Navi Mumbai, Sindhudurg and Shirdi in Maharashtra; Shimoga, Gulbarga, Hassan and Bijapur in Karnataka; Kannur in Kerala; Durgapur in West Bengal; Datia/ Gwalior (Cargo) in Madhya Pradesh; Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh; Karaikal in Puducherry; Paladi/Ramsinghpura near Jaipur in Rajasthan and Shirdi in Maharashtra. In addition, a Greenfield airport at Pakyong in Sikkim is also under construction by Airports Authority of India (AAI). Necessary action for project development, including acquisition of land, financing of the airport project, etc. is taken by the respective airport promoters. The timeline for construction of airport projects depends upon many factors such as land acquisition, availability of mandatory clearances, financial closure, etc. by the individual operations.

(b) Major criteria and norms for declaring an airport as an international airport are: International sector traffic potential; adequate runway length; demand/ commitment from airline to operate on international sector; availability of customs, immigration, health and plant quarantine facilities; international cargo complex; adequate size of terminal building to handle international and transit passengers; precision approach runway and associated facilities such as night landing facility, instrument approach landing system, navigational aids with round the clock operation etc. & bilateral agreement with the country where international operation are planned.

(c) Necessary action for project development is taken by the respective airport promoters and the timeline for construction of airport projects depends upon many factors such as acquisition of land, mandatory clearances and financial closure of the airport project etc.