

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:583

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

SMALL AIRPORTS

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop and operationalise small airports in the country, particularly in Balurghat, Coochbehar and Purulia in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations selected for this purpose;
- (c) if not, the reasons thereto;
- (d) the time by which these airports are likely to be made operational; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposes to upgrade some of its small non-operational airports in the country subject to availability of land from State Governments free of cost and free from encumbrances, either through its own resources or with participation of the State Government's through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In case of North-East States, these airports are proposed to be developed with funding of Government of India.

These airports are Warangal & Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh; Passighat & Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh; Rupsi in Assam; Kailashahar & Kamalpur in Tripura; Jharsuguda in Orissa; Malda in West Bengal and Kishangarh in Rajasthan.

As regards the airports at Balurghat, Coochbehar and Purulia are concerned the particulars are as under:

- (i) Cooch Behar airport in West Bengal is an operational airport fit for ATR-42 type of aircraft but there is no operation to this airport.
- (ii) There is no proposal to develop the airstrip at Balurghat in West Bengal.
- (iii) There is no airport/ airstrip at Purulia in West Bengal.