

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3491
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011
GREENFIELD AIRPORT AT PAKYONG SIKKIM
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any delay in the construction of greenfield airport at Pakyong, Sikkim;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the expected date of completion of the project;
- (c) whether the said airport is likely to be equipped to cater to bigger aircrafts than the ATR 72s;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there are tie-ups with the private airlines to fly to the said airport and to introduce international routes;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, airline-wise, route-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS & MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Madam. There has been delay in completion of the runway work due to excessive rains, closure of the National Highway due to frequent bandhs and agitations, non-availability of diesel for earth work equipment's, etc. which has affected the progress of the work. The entire project is scheduled for completion by December, 2012.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) to (g) Regarding operation of flights, 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 including airport at Pakyong 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.