

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2710  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2009  
COOCH BEHAR AND BALURGHAT AIRPORTS  
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

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

- (a) whether a Central team has visited the non-operational Cooch Behar and Balurghat Airports recently;
- (b) if so, the findings of the team in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which the said airports are likely to become operational?

**Answer**

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

(a) The Technical Team of M/s. RITES Ltd., appointed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) inspected Balurghat airport as one of the non-operational airports of AAI to be examined for the viability of revival to facilitate commercial operations. Cooch Behar airport is an operational airport w.e.f. 15th November, 2007. However, no airline operator has shown interest to operate to/ from Cooch Behar airport.

(b) & (c) M/s. RITES has submitted its report in December, 2008, wherein it is indicated that there is not much scope/ potential for development of Balurghat airport. In addition, no airline operator has shown its commitment/ interest to operate to/ from this airport. Therefore, AAI has no plan to develop this airport at present.