

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:94

ANSWERED ON:02.07.2009

EXPANSION OF AIRPORTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the charges at Himachal Pradesh airports are comparatively very high as only small planes land there, which is in turn affecting tourism in the State;
- (b) if so, whether any plan has been prepared for extension of runways and upgradation of airports in Himachal Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether there is any proposal to keep the air fares low as in the case of north-eastern states?

Answer

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

(a) The airport charges are uniform for all domestic airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI). However, for all smaller aircraft having seating capacity of less than 80 seats, no landing charges are levied by AAI. Aircraft weighing upto 10000 kgs are charged Route Navigation and Facilitation Charges(RNFC)@20% of normal rate and aircraft weighing upto 20000 kgs are charged RNFC @40% of normal rate.

(b) & (c) Various development works have been either completed or are in progress at Kangra, Kullu and Shimla airports in Himachal Pradesh. Kangra Airport has been upgraded to cater for ATR - 72 type of aircraft operation. Ground lighting facilities are being provided.

Kullu airport has also been upgraded to cater for ATR - 72 type of aircraft operation with construction of new terminal building for 100 passengers, apron, link taxiway, Fire Station and Emergency Medical Centre. Ground lighting facilities are also being provided. The expansion of Shimla airport is not feasible due to the fact that the airport is located on the table top of the hill surrounded by deep gorges at both ends of the runway. Ground lighting facilities are being provided. The State Government has taken up restoration of basic strip and prevention of soil erosion so as to restore full length of runway of 4100 feet.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.