

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6660

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013

ANDAL AIRPORT PROJECT

Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various airport projects including the Andal Airport Project are facing problems in roping in various airlines for operation in the proposed sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken/ proposes to take any corrective steps in this regard including discussions regarding finalisation of routes with domestic airlines; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b): Airports Authority of India (AAI) has made available adequate infrastructure of the airports at Bhatinda, Cooch Behar, Jaisalmer, Pant Nagar, Pathankot, Jalgoan, Bikaner, Shilong, Tezpur, Lilabari, Akola, Behala, Kandla, Keshod, Kota, Kullu, Sholapur, Gwalior and Kangra for scheduled aircraft operations. However, scheduled operations have either not taken place or have operated for a short while before airlines suspended operations due to inadequate passenger load. The decision of operating from a particular airport including Andal Airport Project (being developed by private operator) is taken by airlines purely on its commercial viability.

(c) & (d): With a view to promote scheduled aircraft operations from non-operational airports, AAI as well as State Governments from time to time provide certain incentives by giving discounts in various charges viz. landing / parking fee and other charges, reduction in VAT on ATF, etc. In addition, Government has also laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for services in different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the government.