

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:665

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

CIVIL AVIATION PLAN FOR NE

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath; Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes and programmes under the Civil Aviation Policy to be implemented in the North Eastern States during the next two years along with the funds earmarked by the Government for this purpose;
- (b) whether Air India has stopped/proposes to stop operation to North-East region;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the North-East Council has not paid its dues to Air India, and;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the outstanding dues against the Council and the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues?;

Answer

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

(a): Airports Authority of India have plans to make Guwahati airport as an Inter-Regional Hub and Agartala, Dibrugarh and Imphal as Intra- Regional Hubs. In addition, Airport Authority of India has also planned for improvement of operational efficiency and passengers' facilities at a number of other airports in the region. For the year 2013 Airport Authority of India has earmarked an amount of Rs. 103 crores including budgetary support and grant-in-aid from government. The budget provision for 2014-15 would be made based on the progress of works during 2013.

(b) and (c): No, Madam. Alliance Air has only withdrawn some of its flights in the North East region due to commercial unviability.

(d) and (e): Yes, Madam. The Viability Gap Funding of Rs. 60 crores (approx.) for the year 2012 has not been paid by North East Council to M/s Alliance Air. Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken up the matter with Ministry of Development of North- East Region and North East Council.