

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:748  
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2009  
OPERATION OF PRIVATE AIRLINES  
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a decision for allowing private airlines to operate to other countries besides SAARC;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the time since when the proposal is with the Government for its consideration;
- (d) the reasons for not taking any final decision in the matter till date;
- (e) whether a large number of small airports in the country are not functioning for the last several years;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps being taken to make these airports functional?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Eligible private airlines of India are entitled to operate on international routes as agreed to under respective bilateral air services arrangements with foreign countries subject to approval of the Government.

(e) to (g): Thirtythree airports in India are non-operational. These include four in West Bengal, three each in Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, two each in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka and one each in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Orissa, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu. Based on a feasibility study for operationalisation of non-operational airports, thirteen of these airports are being developed for operationalisation.