

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4727

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014

AIR CONNECTIVITY TO NORTH EAST

Chaudhury Shri Jitendra; Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun; Tasa Shri Kamakhya Prasad

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

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- (a) the details of the projects taken up for development of airports in the North Eastern States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the present status of these projects along with the funds incurred thereon during the said period, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is no direct flight from Jorhat Airport in Assam to New Delhi and if so, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken in this regard;
- (d) whether Air India has discontinued all its flights to Jorhat and closed down its offices in the city and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to enhance air connectivity to North-East region along with their plan to re-operationalise the Kamalpur and Kailashahar Airports in Tripura?

**Answer**

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) & (b) : The details of airport projects taken up for development of airports in North-East Region (NER) states during the last three years and the current year, state-wise, along with their present status and funds incurred are at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) : Yes, Madam. Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India, had discontinued its operations from January, 2013 due to withdrawal of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) by North Eastern Council and operational limitations within the available resources/capacity, etc. Air India has also decided to close down its booking offices in the city as a cost-cutting measure. The scheduled domestic airlines plan their flight schedule on specific routes/cities depending on market demand, commercial viability, etc. and are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs).

(e): Government of India in its bid to enhance air connectivity to NER states has undertaken various infrastructure projects such as Construction of hangars at Guwahati Airport for its development as inter-regional hub, development of Tezu Airport, modification of terminal building at Imphal Airport, etc. Further, the Govt. of India has also laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines which envisages deployment of a specified minimum capacity of air transport services to designated areas including NER. For upgradation/ operationalisation of Kamalpur and Kailashahar Airports to handle ATR-72 type of aircraft operations, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has submitted Master Plans along with the projected land requirements of 50.5 acres and 75 acres respectively, to the State Govt. of Tripura.