GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4276
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Status of International Airport
Bais Shri Ramesh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports proposed to be upgraded and given the status of international airport by the Government;

(b) the norms prescribed to declare an airport as international airport;

(c) whether Raipur airport in Chhattisgarh is also proposed to be made international airport; and

(d) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be done?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a): Upgradation of an airport to international standards is a continuous process which is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) depending upon demand from airlines, traffic potential, economic viability, availability of land for infrastructure upgradation, etc. The proposal for declaration of Bhopal, Indore and Raipur Airports was under consideration, however, it was not found viable due to low traffic potential and proximity of the three airports.

(b): Declaration of an airport as International Airport depends upon various factors like traffic potential, demand from airlines for operation of international flights, availability of the facilities like suitable length of runway to cater to medium capacity long-range aircraft or equivalent type of aircraft, scope for extending the runway length further as per future requirements for large bodied air crafts, availability of Ground Lighting Facilities and Instrument Landing System for operation of aircraft at night and availability of Customs, Immigration, Health and Animal & Plant Quarantine services.

(c) & (d): Swami Vivekanand Airport, Raipur has been upgraded with the necessary infrastructure to international standards. On the request of State Govt. of Chhattisgarh for declaration of Swami Vivekanand Airport, Raipur as an International Airport, the proposal was examined and it was observed that the traffic has not picked up at some of the recently declared international airports such as Imphal, Bhubaneswar, etc. Moreover, expected international traffic potential at Raipur Airport is also low and thus, the proposal was not found viable.