

(b) how many of them have been recognised by the Indian Airlines and the details thereof;

(c) how many employees are covered by each of these recognised unions; and;

(d) the number of pending industrial disputes raised by each of the recognised unions?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has eight recognised Unions/Associations.

The names of these unions and the number of employees represented each Union are given in the Statement (See below). Besides these, there are eleven unrecognised Unions/Associations, of which, ten are registered Unions/Associations.

(d) There are thirteen pending industrial disputes, out of which twelve have been raised by the Air Corporations Employees' Union (ACEU) and the remaining one by ICPA (Indian Commercial Pilots Association).

Statement

Recognised Unions/Association of Indian Airlines Limited

S. No.	Name of the Union/Association	No. of employees represented (1.4.1998)
1.	Air Corporation Employees' union (ACEU)	14806
2.	Indian Aircraft Technicians Association	3071
3.	Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA)	311
4.	All India Aircraft Engineers' Association	664
5.	Indian Airlines Officers' Association	1315
6.	Airlines Radio Officers' and Flight Operators Officers' Association	105
7.	Indian Flight Engineers' Association	35
8.	Airlines Ground Instructors' Association	17
TOTAL		20324

Upgradation of Bagdogra Airport

956. SHRI DAWA LAMA:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of West Bengal to upgrade the Bagdogra Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the Bagdogra Airport and the plans of Government to improve the same; and

(d) whether Government will consider to allow international charter flights to

land at this airport which will be so useful for promotion of tourism in the entire North-East?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) In the recent past no request has been recorded from the West Bengal Government to upgrade Bagdogra Airport. The Bagdogra Airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence and Airports Authority of India (AAI) is maintaining a civil enclave. AAI is constructing a new terminal building with modern passenger amenities at a cost of Rs. 11.43 crore. The work is likely to be completed by October, 1999. There is also a proposal to provide a separate

approach road from the National Highway to the Terminal Building. The land has been identified and the State Govt. has been requested to acquire this land. There is also a proposal to extend the apron to accommodate 2 AB-320 and 2 B-737 aircraft simultaneously.

(d) Tourist charter flights can be operated to any airport subject to availability of customs and immigration facilities.

Expansion of air services in North-Eastern region

957. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps contemplated by Government to modernise and expand air travel in North-East region;

(b) whether any special steps had been taken during the past five years in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and impact of each of these steps in the sphere of air service in the region?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) With a view to provide better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different region in the country, the Government has issued the route dispersal guidelines. According to these guidelines all scheduled operators are required to deploy a minimum of 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk route (category-I routes), in the North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (category-II routes); 1% of the capacity deployed on category-II routes is to be deployed exclusively within Category-II stations.

Upgradation and modernisation of infrastructure facilities at the airports located in the North Eastern Region have been taken up by the Government in a

phased manner by funding on cost sharing basis between North Eastern Council (NEC) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the ratio of 60:40. Budgetary support is also provided to AAI to meet its 40% share. The following scheme/projects have been under taken/completed:—

- (i) Night Landing facilities, modern State of the art RADAR have been provided and Passenger Terminal Building Complex is also being upgraded at Guwahati. Night operation have been approved at Guwahati and Agartala Airports;
- (ii) Modern Navigational Aids, ground lighting facilities have also been provided during the past 5 years at Imphal, Dimapur, Agartala, Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar making them suitable for jet operations in all weather conditions;
- (iii) Lilabari Airport is being upgraded for jet operations and a new airport at Lengpui (Mizoram) has been constructed for B-737 operations;
- (iv) A proposal to provide a few concessions/incentives for operations with small aircraft (upto 55 seater) is also contemplated. This will facilitate improved airlinks in the North East Region.

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में रिक्त पद

958. श्री मुनव्वर हसन: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन विभिन्न स्तरों में ग्रुप "ए", "बी", "सी" व "डी" कर्मियों के रिक्त स्थानों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उक्त रिक्त स्थान कब से खाली पड़े हैं; और

(ग) इन रिक्त स्थानों को कब तक भर दिया जायेगा अथवा भरने का विचार है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) और (ख) ब्यौर विवरण में दिए गए हैं। (नीचे देखिए)