

There are also plans for construction of new integrated terminal building and extension of runway.

At Madurai Airport, extension of new apron has been completed and construction of new integrated terminal building complex for 500 passengers including two aerobridges are in progress with PDC by October, 2009. In addition, extension of runway has also been planned.

At Bagdogra airport (Siliguri), extension of apron, installation of Instrument Landing System and approach lights have been planned.

Expansion of Bhubaneswar airport

1022. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Civil Aviation department has any plan to expand the Bhubaneswar airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Bhubaneswar is going to be an International airport;
- (d) How many other airports are in Orissa other than Bhubaneswar; and
- (e) whether Government has also plan for the development of these airports to have air link to Rourkela, Sambalpur, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Kokrajhar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar is one of the 35 non-metro airports taken up for development and upgradation to international standards. At this airport, construction of a New Terminal Building with all modern facilities including two aerobridges at a cost of Rs. 145.54 crores to handle 800 passengers at a time has been initiated. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also a plan for extension of apron to facilitate aerobridge stands.

(d) Other than Bhubaneswar airport, AAI maintains Jharsuguda airport in Orissa.

(e) At present, there is no such plan under consideration.

Merger of domestic and international carriers

1023. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both the domestic and international carriers, Indian Airlines and Air India were merged before last year to create a new entity namely National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL);

(b) whether the merger was to create synergy and to improve the financial and operational aspects in order to place the two companies on firm footing;

(c) whether the merger has failed resulting in huge financial losses and drop in market shares; and