

(b) Continuous monitoring is done to ensure that the airlines pay their dues in time. Default in payment by the airlines is dealt with measures like charging of penal interest, withdrawal of credit facility and putting the airline on "cash-and-carry" basis.

#### **Guwahati airport as air traffics hub**

787. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to State whether the Ministry is considering the Guwahati airport as a hub for air traffic to facilitate the public as well as from the strategic point of view to meet any emergency, considering the strategic importance of the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): The Guwahati airport is equipped with all passenger amenities for both domestic and international operations and can be used to meet any emergency, considering the strategic importance of North East Region. However, using this airport as a hub is to be decided by the airlines based on their own commercial interests.

#### **Direct Haj flights from Srinagar Airport**

788. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether no Haj flight was allowed to operate from Srinagar international airport during October-November, 2010 when direct Haj flights have taken off from the same airport in the past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to ensure the International Airport status of Srinagar airport and avoid any inconvenience to pilgrims and other international passengers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The direct Haj flights from Srinagar could not be undertaken due to the airport limitations prevalent at the time.

(c) This would not affect the international status of Srinagar airport and efforts are being made to operate direct flights from Jeddah/Madinah to Srinagar in return phase of Haj 2010.

#### **Facilities for air passengers**

†789. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal to provide more facilities to air passengers;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.