

**Demand for Immediate action for Extension of Runway at Lok
Priya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati**

SHRIMATI SYEDAANWARA TAIMUR (Assam): Sir, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Airport, Guwahati, has been declared as International Airport. We, the people of all the North-Eastern States, are happy about the decision taken by the Government of India, but the airport has no landing capacity for Jumbo Aircrafts, and its runway is not yet completed for landing of Jumbo aircrafts. The hon. Minister of State for Civil Aviation has given a reply to Unstarred Question No. 3408 on 26th April, 2004, in the Rajya Sabha, stating that extension work relating to runways are generally carried out by the Airports Authority of India on the basis of firm demand from the Airlines. No such demand exists or has been received for Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati. Sir, I would like to mention here that the Airports Authority of India comes under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. A firm demand for runway extension should be made by the officials of Airports Authority of India and not by the general public. Mere announcement of one airport as an international airport will not serve the purpose. Facilities like runway for landing of big aircraft should be provided. If the hon. Minister puts in a word to the officials of the Airports Authority of India in connection with extension of runway for landing of international big aircraft, then, automatically, action will be started. The hon. Minister has to take care of it. This will give incentive to the whole of the North-East in its overall development. Thousands of foreign tourists come to the North-East every year. Handicraft, handloom products, floriculture, horticulture and other small scale industries will get a boost in the world market. If this runway is completed before January, 2006, the Haj pilgrims of 2006 from the North-Eastern States also will not face any difficulty.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to initiate immediate action for extension of runway at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at Guwahati, to complete it before January, 2006, and to facilitate the people of the North-Eastern States.

DR. M. S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

SHRINABAM REBIA (Arunachal Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with it.