

(a) whether it is a fact that Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi (LGNB) airport at Guwahati is declared an international airport;

(b) if so, how many international flights are operated daily/weekly from this airport; and

(c) the amount of fund allocated under different heads for renovation/reconstruction in the airport and how much is utilized, on which work from 2005 to 2010?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present, Druk Air is operating two flights per week on Paro - Guwahati - Bangkok and *vice-versa* route.

(c) The fund allocated (BE) under Capital Head at LGNB Airport for civil and electrical works during the period of year 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 & 2009-10 (Rs. in crores) are 7.97, 11.49, 19.39, 34.25 & 25.41 respectively and funds utilized for each of these respective year (Rs. in crores) are 4.83, 16.14, 44.28, 31.68 and 40.29.

Issues raised during Indo-Pak talks

516. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the issues raised/discussed during the Indo-Pakistan bilateral talks since last one year;

(b) the levels at which these talks were held;

(c) the details of talks/meetings likely to be held in the future;

(d) whether the issues discussed and agreements signed have been implemented;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) to (f) In pursuance of the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, following their meeting in Thimphu in April, 2010 and the meeting of the Minister of External Affairs of India and

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in Islamabad in July, 2010, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Thimphu on February 6, 2011, to chart the way forward in India-Pakistan relations. The Foreign Secretaries agreed on the need for a constructive dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues. The two sides agreed on the following:

(i) They agreed to resume dialogue on all issues following the spirit of the Thimphu meeting between the two Prime Ministers.

(ii) The Foreign Minister of Pakistan will visit India by July 2011 to review progress in the dialogue process with his counterpart. This will be preceded by a meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries.

(iii) They agreed that prior to the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, meetings at the level of respective Secretaries will be convened on Counter-terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial); Humanitarian issues; Peace & Security, including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; promotion of friendly exchanges; Siachen; Economic issues; Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project; and Sir Creek (at the level of Additional Secretaries/Surveyors General).

Talks on the various issues, as agreed at Thimphu, were held during the period March-June 2011. The discussions contributed to a better understanding of each other's position on these issues.

The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met again on July 26, 2011 in New Delhi prior to the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the two countries. They reviewed the progress in the talks on various subjects under the resumed dialogue process and preparation for the Ministerial level meeting held on July 27, 2011.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan visited India from July 26-28, 2011 and held discussions with EAM in New Delhi on July 27, 2011. The Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral relations, expressed satisfaction on the holding of various Secretary level meetings and affirmed the importance of carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to resolving peacefully all outstanding issues. They agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations and in this regard agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice. The Ministers decided to resume the work of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission. The Ministers agreed to convene separate

expert level meetings on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs, in Islamabad in September 2011. The Ministers also agreed to the continuation of the dialogue process and to convene a series of Secretary level meetings on all issues, prior to the visit of EAM to Pakistan in the first half of 2012.

Meeting on Haj Pilgrimage

517. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held by him with the Members of Parliament in New Delhi on 7th March, 2011 to discuss matters relating to Haj pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed;

(c) the consensus arrived at; and

(d) the details of the follow-up action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) Yes.

(b) Issues discussed during the meeting were: i) Issues related to subsidy to Haj pilgrims; ii) Scrapping Haj Goodwill Delegations; iii) Hiring of accommodation in Makkah & Madinah on long term basis; iv) Global tendering of air charter for the pilgrims; v) Sharing contents of the bilateral Haj Agreement signed between the Government of India and Saudi Arabia; vi) Abolition of PTO quota; vii) Regional balance in PTOs quota; viii) Inclusion of Ziyarat with Haj pilgrimage; ix) Shifting of HCOI office from Mumbai to Delhi; x) Expeditious issuance of pilgrims' passports; xi) Coordination among Government, Haj Committees and airlines; xii) Delays in arrival/departure of charter flights; xiii) Compensation on account of loss of baggage of pilgrims; xiv) Release of seats to MPs from Government quota; xv) Higher air fare in charter flights; xvi) Adopting Malaysian model of Tabung Haji; xvii) Khadim-ul-hujjaj etc.

(c) and (d) The views expressed are being given due consideration.

Period for issuing a passport

518. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: