

Airport in Sikkim

1889. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress made toward completion of airport in the State of Sikkim;
- (b) whether the pace of work is going on as per the schedule or there is any delay and cost overrun;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Work has been awarded in respect of earth work in cutting and filling, construction of Geogrid Reinforced Retaining Wall, drainage system including box culverts and aerodrome pavements, etc. The present progress of this work is 48.5%.

(b) and (c) There has been delay in completion of the runway work due to excessive rains, closure of the National Highway due to frequent bandhs and agitations, non-availability of diesel for earth work equipment's, etc. which has affected the progress of the work. As of now, no cost overrun is anticipated on the runway work. Final amount will be known after award of balance packages.

(d) The entire project scheduled for completed by December, 2012.

Biju Patnaik airport, Bhubaneswar

1890. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to states:

- (a) whether Government is considering to declare Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar as an international airport and if so, the date by which international flights can be expected to start from Bhubaneswar; and
- (b) whether Government has received a request from the State Government of Orissa for upgradation of Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar to an international airport standards and if so, the steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Government of Orissa had sent a proposal for grant of international status to Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar.