

#### **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.

Bhubaneswar airport has not been declared as an International airport. However, construction of a new Terminal Building with world class facilities which includes aerobridges, CCTV system, inline baggage handling system, lifts and elevators, conveyors with built in weighing machines for check-in-counters etc. has been taken up by Airports Authority of India (AAI) at a cost of Rs. 145.54 crores, which is scheduled to be completed by April, 2012.

This airport has been designated as a point of call for international operations for some foreign airlines. The Indian carriers are eligible to operate the foreign destinations from any point in India as per the respective bilateral air services agreements with concerned foreign countries. However, actual operations by any airlines is always guided by its commercial judgment.

#### **Upgradation of airports in Non-metro cities**

1891. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to expedite plans for upgradation of airports in 35 non-metro cities which is crucial to handle the increasing passenger and cargo air traffic in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is in a position to suggest a new deadline for upgradation of Chennai airport which earlier stood at June, 2011 and has been missed;

(d) whether the Kolkata airport upgradation deadline of August, 2011 is going to be met; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the statement (See below).

(c) The revised date of completion of the Chennai airport modernization project is December, 2011.

(d) and (e) The revised date of completion of the Kolkata airport modernization project is March, 2012.