

for 20-seater aircraft operations and additional 8.6 acres (Total 34.3 acres) for ATR-42 type of aircraft operations.

**7. Sholapur:**

The existing airport cannot be upgraded in view of around urbanization. State Government has plans to construct and develop an alternative new Greenfield airport at Boramani in the vicinity. Also the ownership issue of Sholapur airport is yet to be decided.

**8. Other Small Airports:**

AAI has already projected additional land request, as per Master Plan, to State Govts. in respect of Warangal, Malda, Jharsuguda, Kamalpur & Vellore airports for developing these airports in phases, Concurrence of the State Government is awaited.

**Baljek Airport**

1874. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Baljek airport project of the AAI has been completed but has not become functional;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when it will become functional?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has constructed a small airport at Tura in Meghalaya. The airport has been constructed by AAI as a deposit work for the State Government and the airport is fit for DO-228 type of aircraft operations.

Regarding operation of flights, Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places including airport at Tura depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.