

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Full-fledged banking functions by Postal Department**

*321. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has approached RBI to grant it licence to convert its Savings Account into a full-fledged bank;

(b) if so, the number of its branches in the country, which would perform such functions, State-wise;

(c) whether the staff deputed for performing full-fledged banking duties would be paid suitable scales as given to the staff in the public sector banks; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Posts has not approached the Reserve Bank of India to grant it license to convert the Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) in to a full-fledged bank as the POSB is an agency function carried out by the Department of Posts on behalf of the Ministry of Finance under the provisions of Government Savings Bank Act, 1873.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Upgradation of Lengpui airport

*322. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Mizoram has submitted any project proposal for development/improvement/upgradation of Lengpui airport; and

(b) if so, the details of the project proposal and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 2003, the State Government of Mizoram had submitted a project proposal to NEC for upgrading Lengpui airport at an outlay of Rs. 10.99 crores. Rs. 6.58 crore was sanctioned by NEC in 2005 and NEC has released a grant to the State Government of Rs. 5.92 crore as NEC's 90% share of the expenditure. Componentwise details of the project are given at Statement-I (*See below*).

The State Government has again submitted proposals to NEC for upgrading Lengpui airport during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Details of these projects are given at Statement-II (*See below*).

Owing to limited budgetary allocations for NEC, and the fact that Eleventh Five Year Plan proposals are yet to be finalized, as well as huge committed liabilities, on

ongoing projects, consideration of these proposals at present stand deterred. Once the Eleventh Plan is finalized, the Ministry of DONER will be approaching the Ministry of Finance for augmentation of NEC resources.

The State Government of Mizoram has also submitted a similar project proposal for upgrading Lengpui airport at an outlay of Rs. 50.93 crore for funding under the Non-Lapseable Central Pool of Resources. Details of the project are given at Statement-III (See below). The NLCPR Committee will consider the proposal on merits, subject to the availability of funds.

Statement-I

Component-wise details of the project for up-gradation of Lengpui airport submitted by the State Government of Mizoram in 2003 and approved by NEC

	Description of project component	Approved cost (Rs. in crore)
(i)	Construction of Boundary Pillar along airport boundary line	6.58
(ii)	Construction of roof treatment of terminal building	
(iii)	Construction of security road along the security fencing	
(iv)	Construction of Staff Quarters	
(v)	Construction of waiting shed	
(vi)	Construction of approach road to DVOR and NDB	
(vii)	Construction of Security Observation Post (5 Nos.)	
(viii)	Painting and renovation works	
(ix)	Extension of fire building	
(x)	Fire Station watch tower	
(xi)	Fire Station Workshop	
(xii)	Fire Station store	
(xiii)	Furnishing of Airport Manager Room	

Statement-II

Component-wise details of the project for upgradation of Lengpui airport submitted by the State Government of Mizoram

Sl. No.	Item of works	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Plans for further Upgradation/Improvements of Lengpui airport during the Eleventh Plan	

1	2	3
	(a) Installation of additional Navigation/approach Aid (DVOR) (Rs. 0.75 cr) (b) Procurement and Installation of ILS Equipments (Rs. 3.50 cr) (c) Establishment of Meteorological Observatory (DCWIS):- Site Preparation and Construction of Cable Duct for DCWIS Equipment (Rs. 0.34 cr) (d) Upgradation of Refueling Facilities:- (a) Purchase of two 16 KL Refueling Bowzer Rs. (0.84 cr) (b) Purchase of two 16 KL Tankers (Rs.0.26 cr) (c) Construction of two 200 KL capacity storage Tanks (Rs. 0.26 cr) (e) Construction of Isolation Parking Bay, Link Taxi Tract and Extension of the Runway and Apron (Rs. 33.30 cr) (f) Construction of a Dam at Chhimluang (Rs. 2.66 cr) (g) Construction of a New Air Traffic Control Tower (Rs. 1.50 cr) (h) Construction of an Air Cargo Complex and a Cold Storage:- (a) construction of Air Cargo Complex (Rs. 0.80 cr) (b) Construction of a Cold Storage (Rs. 0.70 cr)	
	TOTAL:	44.91
2.	Improvement/Upgradation of various facilities at Lengpui airport (Rs.	2.09
3.	Construction of Staff Quarters at Lengpui airport	4.99
4.	Water Supply scheme, plying and laying of underground cable, fencing of car park area and security fencing of Staff Quarters	4.98
5.	Water Supply Scheme for Lengpui airport	2.66
	GRAND TOTAL:	59.63

Statement-III

*Details of the project submitted by the State Government of Mizoram for
“upgradation of Lengpui airport” for funding under NLCPR scheme*

Item of works	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)
Upgradation of Ground infrastructure facilities	50.93
Installation/improvement of electronic landing aids and navigational aids.	

MoU for legal migration

*323. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry and the International Organization for Migration signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the project “Regional Dialogue and Facilitating Managed and Legal Migration between Asia and the European Union”;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) in what manner this would be helpful in reducing illegal migration to European countries;

(d) the modalities of legal help to be given to migrant workers; and

(e) to what extent European Union has responded to management of immigration in their own countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):
(a) to (e) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for implementation of the project “Regional Dialogue and Programme on Facilitating Managed and Legal Migration between Asia and the European Union (EU)”.

The project is sponsored by European Union (EU) and covers 10 Asian countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; for some activities Afghanistan) and 5 European countries (Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and U.K).

The project is aimed at facilitating development of legal migration, enhancing regional cooperation on legal migration management, reducing irregular migration, enhancing placement capacity amongst recruiting agencies and dissemination of information relating to employment opportunities and procedures to intending emigrants.

The project will seek to promote and facilitate legal migration of Indian workers to the European Union through a wide range of activities including training at the