

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2254
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16th December 2024)

EXPANSION OF AIRPORTS

2254. SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to expand the Shimla, Kangra, Kullu and Mandi airports of Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the process of land acquisition/survey for expansion of the said airports has been completed, if so, the details thereof, the timeline set for completion of the projects for expansion of the said airports?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): Shimla Airport, owned by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), has a table-top runway with steep slopes all around due to which the expansion of the airport is highly expensive and financially unviable.

At Kullu Airport also, the expansion of the existing airport is not feasible due to land constraints.

At Kangra (Gaggal) Airport, to extend the runway to a total length of 3,010 meters, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested an additional 369.82 acres of land from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh. As per the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, the responsibility for providing land for airport development, free of cost and free from all encumbrances, lies with the respective State Government. However, the required land for Kangra (Gaggal) Airport is yet to be handed over to AAI by the State Government.

Government of India (GoI) has formulated a Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008 which prescribes the procedure and conditions for development of new Greenfield airports in the country. There is a two-stage process of approval, i.e. 'Site-Clearance' followed by 'In-Principle' approval. Accordingly, an approval granting 'Site Clearance' to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) was issued on 04.07.2022 for the development of an International Standard Greenfield airport at Nagchala, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.

The timeline for the construction of airports depends upon various factors such as

land acquisition, mandatory clearances, removal of obstacles, financial closure etc. by the respective airport developers.
