

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:502
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
UPGRADATION OF AIRSTRIPS IN WEST BENGAL
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airstrips in West Bengal and the number out of them being used for regular flights;
- (b) whether any assistance has been provided by the Union Government for their expansion and upgradation;
- (c) if so, the details of assistance provided during each of the last three year; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a):- There are six airports in West Bengal, namely, Bagdogra, Kolkata, Cooch Behar, Balurghat, Malda and Behala. All these airports excepting Bagdogra belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI). Bagdogra airport belongs to Indian Air Force. AAI maintains a civil enclave at this airport. Of these, only Bagdogra and Kolkata airports are operational.

(b)(c)&(d):- No, Sir. All expenditure for expansion and development of the airports are generally met from the internal resources of AAI. Presently, at Kolkata airport, work of strengthening of main runway including provision of Cat.II lighting system and construction of an integrated cargo complex are in progress. There is also a proposal to operationalise the airport at Cooch Behar for operation of ATR 42 type of aircraft. The work is likely to be taken up during 2005-06.