

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1455
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
OPERATION OF UNUSED AIRSTRIPS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has started using unused airstrips keeping in view of the increased inflow of air traffic in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of airstrips became operational after entry of private airlines in the country;
- (d) the total loss reduced by the use of these airstrips during 2004-05, till date; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to reduce its expenditure on unused airstrips?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) and (c) Recently, the Civil Enclaves at Gwalior, Allahabad and Gorakhpur and airports at Jabalpur, Hubli and Belgaum have been made operational.
- (d) The total loss has not reduced, rather it has increased by Rs.28.49 lakhs during the year 2004-05.
- (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has reduced the staff for watch and ward of unused airstrips to the minimum. Besides, concerned State Governments have been offered to take over the unused airstrips on lease basis for aviation purposes.