

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1327
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006
UTILISATION OF UNUSED AIRSTRIPS .
Athithan Shri Dhanuskodi

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of airstrips in the country are lying unused;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount spent on the maintenance of these airstrips during each of the last three years;
- (d) whether any action is being taken for utilisation of these airstrips; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. 33 airports / airstrips in the country belonging to Airports Authority of India are lying unused due to lack of traffic potential and uncontrolled development around them.
- (c) The expenditure incurred on maintenance of unused airports during the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was Rs.1.29 crores, Rs.1.30 crores and Rs.1.46 crores respectively.
- (d) & (e) On receipt of commitment/ demand from airline operators, renovation/ upgradation of infrastructure facilities have been taken up for operationalisation of Cooch Behar, Behala, Mysore and Akola airports. Operationalisation of other unused airports is contingent on receipt of commitment/ demand from scheduled airline operators to start operations.