

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:311  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004  
DEVELOPMENT/OPERATION OF KOLKATA AND BAGDOGRA AIRPORTS  
Mollah Shri Hannan

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

- (a) whether the Government has received request from West Bengal Government regarding Development of Kolkata Airport and Bagdogra Airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether new airlines are going to operate national and international service from Kolkata/Bagdogra airports; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) (b) & (c):- No Sir. However Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the expansion and development of Kolkata Airport which include construction of integrated cargo complex phase - III, strengthening the main runway 19L/01R including provision of Cat. II lighting system, strengthening of 'D' taxi-track etc. The above mentioned works are likely to be completed by March, 2006. As far as Bagdogra Airport is concerned AAI only maintains a civil enclave and a new terminal building has already been constructed. Upgradation and development of airports is a continuing process depending upon the traffic potential, requirement of the airlines and financial resources.

(d) & (e):- Airlines of more than 35 countries have been granted access to Kolkata. However actual operations are ultimately guided by the commercial judgement of the airlines concerned. Malaysian Airlines have planned to introduce thrice weekly services to Kolkata from 28.1.2005 and Indian Airlines has also decided to introduce 3 more direct flights to Bangkok from Kolkata. Bagdogra airport is also equipped with modern amenities, customs, immigration counters and car park to handle 500 passengers. However, due to fleet constraint and insufficient traffic Indian Airlines is not in the position to commence international flight nor increase the number of the domestic flights.