

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:451
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
EXPANSION OF KULLU AIRPORT
Chandel Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bhuntar (Kullu) airport is too small to handle the growing tourist traffic as it can accommodate only small aircraft resulting in higher fares for that route;
- (b) if so, whether the Government had earlier announced that the Kullu Airport would be expanded and improve with an expenditure of Rs.40 crores; and
- (c) if so, the details of the action plan for its development alongwith the investment made therein?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The then Prime Minister during his visit to Kullu Valley in 2003 had announced a grant of Rs. 30 crores for upgradation of Kullu Airport.

(c) Construction of new apron and taxiway has been completed at a cost of Rs. 2.08 Crores. Action for construction of new Terminal Building, Fire Station etc. at a cost of Rs. 5.39 Crores is in progress. The possibility for extension of existing runway to sustain operations of 50 seater aircrafts is likely to be explored once the State Government hands over the land for the required purpose.