

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 69
(To be answered on the 21st November 2019)**

NEW AIRPORTS

***69. SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED
DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री**

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of new airports proposed for modernization and construction in the States of West Bengal and Bihar, location-wise;**
(b) whether the Government proposes to revive the non-operational Sabeya Airport in Hathua, Bihar and Malda Airport in West Bengal and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Union Government has acceded or proposes to accede to the request of the Government of Bihar for restarting/opening of the Sabeya airport under the UDAN scheme; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Starred (*) Question No. 69 for answer on 21.11.2019 regarding 'New Airports'

(a): Modernization/Upgradation of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and concerned private operators from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand / willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports. AAI has undertaken the modernisation/upgradation of its airports at Patna, Darbhanga (Civil Enclave), Raxaul and Gaya in Bihar and Bagdogra (Civil Enclave) and Cooch Behar in West Bengal. Further, State Government of Bihar has also handed over 108 acre of land to AAI for construction of new Civil Enclave (C.E.) at Air Force Station Bihta and AAI has appointed Project Management Consultant (PMC) for terminal building design and city side development.

(b) to (d): Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) in October, 2016 with the objective to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity to underserved and unserved airports. The revival of airstrips/airports is "demand driven", depending upon firm commitment from airline operators as well as from the State Government for providing various concessions. Sabeya (Hathwa) Airstrip in Gopalganj District of Bihar and Malda airport in West Bengal are available in the list of unserved airports in RCS document. However, no airline has submitted the proposal to operate RCS flight from Sabeya (Hathwa) as well as Malda airstrips under RCS-UDAN so far. As such, no proposal to revive Sabeya and Malda airstrips is under consideration.
