

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1590
(To be answered on the 15th December 2022)**

REDEVELOPMENT OF BAGDOGRA AIRPORT

1590. SHRI RAJU BISTA

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

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the progress made so far on the process of redevelopment work of Bagdogra airport;**
(b) the details of the total budget sanctioned for the project along with the expected date of work commencement; and
(c) whether the Government proposes to start helicopter service connecting Bagdogra to Darjeeling and Kalimpong and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) & (b): Upgradation/ Modernisation of infrastructure at airports, including Bagdogra airport, is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at its airports depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand / willingness of airlines to operate to/ from such airports. AAI has planned development of a Civil Enclave at Bagdogra airport at a cost of Rs.1884 crore. The probable date of start for the project is in December, 2022. However, further development of the airport is subject to the availability of land.

(c): Ministry of Civil Aviation has already released a policy for promotion of helicopter operations across the country. The policy covers various aspects like concessional ground handling charges, parking deposit, landing charges, service charges, credit facility with ATC and training for Air Traffic Control with a view to making helicopter operations viable. The helicopter policy encourages the airport operators/State Governments/UTs to develop heliports. As per the policy, State Governments/UTs are required to set up an Institutional mechanism to facilitate helicopter operations by obtaining permissions, approvals, clearances, etc. The Government through this policy, aims to stimulate air traffic and enhance air connectivity through helicopters by facilitating helicopter operations across the country.
