

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2059
(To be answered on the 14th December 2023)**

MAHINAGAR AIRPORT

2059. DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) delegation has declared the readiness of the facilities at Mahinagar Airport at Balurghat in December 2021;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the reasons for the inordinate delay in making Mahinagar airport operational;
- (c) whether the infrastructure of Balurghat airport at Mahinagar in Dakshin Dinajpur district was found fully developed for operation and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the State Government is not ready to give its control to AAI for flight operations and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the AAI has invited tenders from private players to run Mahinagar airport;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the proposal received and shortlisted so far; and
- (g) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to operationalise the said airport?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a) to (g) : Balurghat Airport has been handed over to the State Government on lease for 30 years at a nominal fee of Rs1/- for development and subsequent non-Scheduled operations.

Balurghat airstrip is available in the tentative list of unserved airports in the UDAN document for bidding. On completion of five rounds of bidding under UDAN, no Airline submitted proposals to connect Balurghat airstrip with RCS Routes. The airstrip at Balurghat was, therefore, not taken up for its revival.

UDAN 5.2 round for small aircraft (less than 20-seater and below aircraft) has been launched. In case a valid proposal for Balurghat is received , the same may be considered as per the provisions of the UDAN Scheme.
