

Allowing us to see and inspect the Air Cargo facilities at the airport including the under construction building of compact air cargo facilities at the new terminal site. The DGM has been kind enough to explain in detail about the available facilities at the moment and how air cargo is handled for sending freight to various destinations to India and abroad.

#### **FINDINGS/INFERENCES:**

As per our team visiting the location and the facilities on 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2019 with the officials of AAI comes to the conclusions that:

1. The Air Cargo facility at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport is not adequate and not up to the International standard needing revamping of the whole logistical system
2. The Cold storage facility is available but too small for storing perishable items like vegetables, fruits, meat and medicines etc.
3. Refrigerated trucks/Reefer containers are not available for use in intermodal freight transportation of temperature sensitive cargo.
4. A freight charge per Kg weight is too inflated for using air cargo facilities from Guwahati to various destinations in and outside the country.
5. The new compact air Cargo facility building construction at the new site must be expedited and completed on time. New Logistical system with state of the art technology system may be in place and installed for quick handling of cargo for both inbound and outbound.
6. Currently the freight charges from Guwahati to Delhi are around Rs. 25 (twenty-five) per kg and to various other foreign destinations is Rs. 68 -70 per kg which is too high and not cost effective. Export of Pineapple, Oranges, Papaya, Turmeric, Ginger is badly hit as these items can no longer be exported to various other destinations in the world due to the obvious reason and losing our competitiveness when it comes to pricing is concerned, and eventually lose the market and its demand for our product.
7. Therefore, all Freight charges for the North Eastern parts of the country must be subsidized or reduced to minimum charges especially for the following sectors like Guwahati to London, Guwahati – Bangkok, South East Asian countries, Guwahati – Middle Eastern Countries, EU countries, the far eastern countries like Japan and South Korea. This step should be urgently initiated to attract big exporters and importers from other region India to Northeastern states.

