

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1627
(To be answered on the 1st August 2024)**

FLIGHTS FROM AMBIKAPUR AIRPORT

1627. SHRI CHINTAMANI MAHARAJ

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the flights for Delhi, Varanasi and Raipur from Ambikapur airport after its upgradation in May 2023 and obtaining approval of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether any proposal from any company has been received or is under-consideration of the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the time by which the flights for Delhi, Varanasi and Raipur are likely to be operational?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): Ambikapur airport , owned by the State Government of Chhattisgarh, was identified during 1st round of bidding under Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) for development and operations. The route Ambikapur-Raipur-Ambikapur has been awarded to FlyBig for operations with 19-seat aircraft. The Selected operator is to start operations upon availability of the intended aircraft. With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation has been deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type and free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate subject to the compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government. Hence, it is upto the airline operator to consider the introduction of air services to/from any city in the country depending on their operational and commercial viabilities.
