

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2043

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012

EXPANSION OF AIR SERVICES

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new domestic air routes launched by public as well as private airlines during the last six months;
- (b) whether all the main cities of the country have been connected with air services;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has received any new proposals for introduction of new flights from various places in the country especially to Allahabad;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto along with the new routes, if any, identified for the purpose, location-wise;
- (f) whether any target has been fixed in this regard;and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said services are likely to be introduced along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

- (a): The number of new domestic air routes launched by public as well as private airlines during last six months is given at Annexure- I.
- (b) to (g): Yes Madam. All the States` Capitals (except Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland & Sikkim) and major cities, including Allahabad, are connected by air services. Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve better regulation of Air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. As per RDG, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in Category II (which includes the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep) at least 10 percent of the capacity deployed by them on routes in Category I and of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category II routes, at least 10 percent would be deployed on services or segments thereof operated exclusively within the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. It is , however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the air lines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the government.