

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2661

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013

AIR SERVICES

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to unveil a policy to encourage low cost regional air connectivity to remote places across the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the policy;
- (c) whether the regional air routes as well as destinations have been identified by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such policy would be implemented; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and flights are being operated by concerned airlines on the basis of commercial viability subject to adherence to Route Dispersal Guidelines laid down by Government in 1994 with a view to ensure better connectivity to remote regions of the country. According to these guidelines, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (Category-II routes) at least 10 percent of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (Category-I routes). Further, at least 10 percent of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category-II routes, is required to be deployed for connectivity exclusively within these regions (Category -II A). All scheduled operators are required to deploy at least 50 percent of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (Category-I routes) onto Category III routes.

Further, to enhance regional connectivity in the country, Government has already introduced separate category of Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services in 2007. The Scheduled Regional Operator are bound to operate mainly in the region for which they have been granted permission, however, in operational exigencies, they can connect cities except metro cities regions also.