

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1346  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013  
UNUSED AIRPORTS  
Ramasubbu Shri S.

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that 32 airports in the country built and maintained by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are lying completely unused, 6 others have just a single flight a day, 9 have 2 and 6 others have 3 to 4 flights per day;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons for unused airports;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to encourage domestic carriers to fly to remote areas and also plans to set up a fund to aid such airlines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to promote smaller airports in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): There are 44 airports belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) where there are no scheduled operations at present. A list of these 44 airports is given at Annexure-I. In addition, there are 26 airports/civil enclaves maintained and managed by AAI where flights ranging from 1 flight per day upto 6 flights per day are being operated. List of these 26 airports/civil enclaves is given at Annexure-II. Flight operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines, which the Government has laid down, 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 including remote areas. However, it is upto the airline operators to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

A proposal to set up Essential Air Service Fund (EASF) has been included in the report of Working Group on Civil Aviation for 12th Five Year Plan.