

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1958

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015

FLIGHT OPERATIONS TO TIER- II AND TIER- III CITIES

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to relax the regulations under Route Dispersal Guidelines to allow domestic airlines to increase their operations on commercially viable routes and generate additional capacity to target Tier-II and Tier-III cities and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to buy small aircraft or ATRs to manage the air travel demand between Tier-II and Tier-III cities and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some private operators have applied for permission for operating small aircrafts/short-haul aircraft in North Eastern States and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken on their applications; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken to boost air connectivity between India and Asian countries via North Eastern States?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) : To achieve better regulation of air transport services to un served and under served areas and the need for air transport services of different regions and remote areas in the country, the Central Government, in supercession of existing Route Dispersal Guidelines(RDGs), had issued guidelines on Policy on Regional and Remote Area Air Connectivity on 4.3.2014. The above policy has been put on hold in view of representations received from stakeholders. Accordingly, the earlier RDGs dated 1.3.1994 are in force at present. However, in order to improve air connectivity to remote and regional areas, a draft revised Policy was put up on the website recently for consultation with stakeholders.

(b) Government of India does not buy aircraft to meet air travel demand.

(c): As per the prevailing regulation, the operator is required to evaluate and confirm to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), with necessary supporting data, suitability of the airport for safe operation of the type of aircraft proposed to be used from considerations such as runway length, PCN / LCN value, clearance of the surrounding and enroute obstacles with one engine inoperative, etc. before commencing operations. As such, operator is not required to seek permission for use of specific aircraft. Since 2014 Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted initial NOC to Zav Airways Pvt. Ltd. and AAA Aviation Pvt. Ltd to operate in North Eastern Region.

(d): Indian carriers are free to operate from any point in India including airports of North Eastern States to the foreign destinations as per the respective bilateral air services arrangements with the concerned foreign country. However, actual operation by any airline is always guided by its commercial judgement and Government does not interfere in it. Further, Government of India has offered 18 tourist destination in India to ASEAN and SAARC(except Pakistan and Afghanistan) countries for unlimited operations.