

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:193
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
AIR CONNECTIVITY
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to improve air connectivity in the unserved and under-served areas of the country.
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the follow-up action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the volume of air traffic both in terms of passengers and cargo and the feasibility to develop airports at various places/locations including at Darbhanga in Bihar and if so, the details and outcome thereof, location-wise;
- (d) the details of the agencies which are involved in developing Greenfield Airports in the country and the progress if work including the expenditure incurred so far, airport-wise; and
- (e) the initiatives taken by the Government to expedite construction of Greenfield Airports?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) to (e):- A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),j(b), (c), (d) & (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 193 FOR 21.7.2014 REGARDING AIR CONNECTIVITY.

(a) & (b): Government has formulated Route Dispersal Guidelines to improve air connectivity in the un-served and under served areas in the county .As per the Route Dispersal Guidelines certain number of flights are obligated to be undertaken to remote and regional areas, which comprises the States of North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. Compliance of these guidelines is monitored by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(c) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has identified 50 towns for promotion of regional and remote area air connectivity taking into account the population, economic growth, tourism potential and lack of air connectivity at these places. List of these towns is at Annexure-I. However, development/upgradation of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time depending on traffic demand, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, availability of land etc.

(d) & (e): Government of India has granted in principle approval for setting up 15 Greenfield airports across the country as per details at Annexure II. While project development is done by the respective airport promoter, progress of these airports; is monitored by the Steering Committee set up under the Greenfield Airport Policy 2008, The timeline for construction of airport projects depends on factors such as land acquisition, financing of the project, availability of mandatory clearances, financial closure, etc.