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Title: Need to include airports in Leh, Kargil, Ladakh, Andaman and Lakshadweep in the Regional Connectivity Scheme.

SHRI THUPSTAN CHHEWANG (LADAKH): The issue of subsidizing air travel to and from Ladakh to Delhi, Jammu and Srinagar figured in almost every session of Lok Sabha for a number of years through Questions, under Rule 377 and during Zero Hour. Besides the matter was brought to the notice of Hon'ble Prime Minister & the Ministers of Civil Aviation and officials of the concerned Ministries. The issue was discussed in detail in the Consultative committee of Civil Aviation Ministry while discussing draft proposal of the new air policy. all the members of the Consultative Committee unanimously recommended that all airports in Ladakh region of J&K State, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep should be included in the Regional air connectivity scheme for the purpose of gap funding to control the exorbitant high rates of airfare on these sectors for the reason that commuters on these sectors have no choice but to travel by air as there is no road connectivity and railway services. The issue failed to find a mention in the regional connectivity scheme announced recently. I request the Government of India to include Leh, Kargil and the airports in Ladakh, Andaman & Lakshadweep in the Scheme to serve the remote regions.