

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Development of regional airlines**

2761. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has plans to develop regional airlines connecting small cities in the country;

(b) whether there is good traffic potential for such regional airlines in connecting major industrial centres in the north eastern part of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to start operation of regional airlines in the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) With a view to promote air connectivity within a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and Tier III (small cities) cities and between specific regions, Government has already introduced a separate category of Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services in 2007.

(b) Taking into account the need of air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East (NE) region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Island and Lakshdweep, the Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) which all scheduled airlines have to comply with. However, domestic air transport operation in the country has been deregulated and airlines are free to operate in any part of the country subject to their compliance with RDGs.

(c) An applicant/ operator fulfilling the minimum requirement specified in CAR section-3 Series C, Part - VII, is eligible to commence operation as a Regional Airline including in North Eastern region.

Development of world class airports at Madhya Pradesh

†2762. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several airports in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be turned into world class ones;

(b) if so, the details of progress made so far in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.