

**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;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Gwalior is proposed to be connected with various parts of the country through air services; and

(d) if so, the details of progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, development/upgradation of airports is a continuous process which is planned and undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time depending on commercial viability, technical feasibility, land availability, etc. In this regard, Raja Bhoj Airport, Bhopal and Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore have already been upgraded and New Terminal Buildings have been commissioned.

(c) and (d) The air transport services have been deregulated and decontrolled with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. As per the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the Govt. of India, the Airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country. However, it is upto the airlines to operate flights to specific areas depending upon the commercial viability and demand factors.

#### **Air service from Bhagalpur, Bihar**

†2763. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan to start air service to link Bhagalpur in Bihar with other cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to make such an airport at Bhagalpur an advanced and model airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA): (a) and (b) Domestic air transport services in the country has been deregulated. Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) 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. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. Scheduled domestic airlines are free to operate anywhere within the country subject to compliance of RDG. At present no scheduled domestic flight is operating to/from Bhagalpur in Bihar.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.