

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 807
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th December 2021)

MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF AIRPORTS IN TAMILNADU

807. SHRI P. WILSON

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for modernization and expansion of airports in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof and decision taken by Government in this regard
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to upgrade the Chennai airport to international standards and establishment of a second airport in Chennai, if so, the details thereof and decision taken by Government in this regard and
- (c) whether Government has any proposal for Madurai airport as an international airport, if so, the details thereof and decision taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a): The modernization and expansion of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand/ willingness of airlines to operate to/ from such airports. AAI has undertaken expansion/ upgradation works at various airports in Tamil Nadu including Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Tuticorin and Chennai.

(b): Chennai airport is an international airport and AAI has undertaken the work of modernization of the airport including construction of a new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs 2467 Crore, for which approval was obtained from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in 2018. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has identified four potential sites for development of second airport in Chennai and has requested AAI to inspect these sites and prepare the feasibility study report.

(c): Declaration of an airport as International Airport depends upon traffic potential and demand from airlines for operation of international flights, besides various other infrastructural requirements. Madurai airport is a Customs airport and all the designated Indian carriers are free to mount operations from Madurai to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral Air Service

Agreements (ASA) concluded by India with foreign countries as per mutually agreed capacity limits. With respect to foreign airlines, operations are governed by bilateral ASAs between India and the country of the foreign airline concerned. Any foreign airline can operate from a point in India if it is designated as a point of call in the ASA.
