

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1620
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st August 2022)**

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS FROM MP

1620. SHRI KAILASH SONI

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

- (a) the total number of airports owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the number of airports out of these which have been proposed to be upgraded to those of international standard, the actions taken thereon, and the details of the airports which have been already expanded to international level; and
- (c) by when the international flights would start operating from the State after the expansion of airports?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

- (a): Airports Authority of India owns and manages seven airports in the State of Madhya Pradesh, viz. Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Khajuraho, Panna, Satna and Khandwa airports, besides maintaining a Civil Enclave at Gwalior Airport.
- (b): The upgradation of airports to meet International Standards/Norms specified by International Organizations such as International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airport Council International (ACI) etc. is undertaken by AAI or the concerned Airport Operators from time to time depending upon commercial viability, traffic demand, availability of land, willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports etc. In Madhya Pradesh, Indore Airport is already a Custom airport having international operations.
- (c): Indian designated carriers are free to mount scheduled operations to/from any airport to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral Air Service Agreements (ASAs) concluded by India with foreign countries. The Government only provides an enabling environment for operation of international flights and has no direct role in the start of flights as commencement of international flights by Indian carriers from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of scheduled airlines on the basis of traffic demand, airports flight handling capacity, safety

infrastructure and economic viability of the route. Presently, weekly flight of Air India is operating on Dubai-Indore-Dubai route.
