

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2096
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th March 2023)

SPECIAL SCHEME TO BOOST AVIATION MARKET

2096. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR

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

- (a) whether India has become the third largest aviation market in the world and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any special scheme to boost the market and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of the international airports in the country at present including in Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) whether Government proposes to establish more international airports in near future and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps being taken by Government to provide world class airports and cheap air transport facilities in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

- (a): India is one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world and is already the third largest domestic aviation market.
- (b): The Government is proactively supporting the aviation sector by providing a stable policy environment and incentivising competition led growth. In 2016, the Government released the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP 2016), which laid out the vision, mission and key objectives for the sector. The Government announced new Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) guidelines on 01.09.2021 with a view to create a congenial atmosphere in the country for the development of the MRO industry for aircraft/ helicopters/ drones and their engines and other parts. These guidelines inter-alia provide for the allotment of land at Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports through call of open tenders without levy of any royalty or cess of whatsoever nature to MRO operators. Similarly, liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) guidelines have been approved wherein the concept of airport royalty (revenue share payment by FTOs to AAI) has been abolished and land rentals have been significantly rationalised to encourage setting up of FTOs to address the shortage of pilots in the country. The

Government has also formulated Helicopter Operation Policy to encourage helicopter operations creating demand and growth. Besides, both AAI and other PPP Airport Operators have embarked upon a Capex Plan of more than Rs.98,000 crore including around Rs.25,000 crore by AAI during 2019-24 for development/upgradation/modernisation of various brownfield airports and developing Greenfield Airports to meet the passenger growth and make air travel safer, comfortable and customer friendly.

(c) & (d): At present, there are 30 international airports in the country including 3 international airports in Uttar Pradesh namely Kushinagar, Varanasi and Lucknow. Government of India has accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of international Greenfield Airports namely, Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh and they are under development.

(f): The upgradation of infrastructures/facilities at airports is a continuous process, which is undertaken by the AAI or the concerned Airport Operators depending upon operational requirements, traffic demand, commercial feasibility etc. Moreover, Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable for the masses. Under UDAN, 469 routes connecting 74 unserved and underserved airports including 9 Heliports & 2 water aerodromes have been operationalised as on 28.02.2023.
