

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 647
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29th July 2024)**

OPERATIONALIZATION OF MALDA AIRPORT

647. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

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

- (a) the current status of Malda Airport
- (b) the reasons for the delay in starting flight services from Malda Airport, despite several visits of officials from Airports Authority of India
- (c) whether there have been any recent initiatives or Government's plans to revive Malda Airport, and the specific challenges preventing its operationalization; and
- (d) Government's plan to address the demands of Malda district's residents and business community for opening Malda Airport?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): On the request of the State Government AAI handed over Malda Airport to the State Government of West Bengal on lease for 30 years for its development, under an MoU signed between the State Government and Airports Authority of India in the year 2016. As per the said MoU, development of Malda Airport is to be undertaken by the State Government.

Malda airstrip was identified for operation of flights under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS - UDAN) during its 4.2 round of bidding. The route Malda - Kolkata - Malda was awarded to Air Taxi for operations with nine seater type of aircraft. However, it was cancelled due to non-readiness of the airport.
