

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 9
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd February 2025)

DEVELOPMENT OF TIRUPATI AIRPORT AS INTERNATIONAL HUB

*9. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO

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

- (a) the steps taken to develop Tirupati Airport as an international hub;
- (b) the measures adopted to establish aviation training institutes in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether specific provisions or plans have been instituted to increase SC/ST student enrollment in aviation training institutes; and
- (d) whether Government has dedicated funds or plans to increase affordability of aviation studies for students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 9 FOR REPLY ON 03.02.2025 REGARDING TIRUPATI AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AS INTERNATIONAL HUB BY SHRI GOLLA BABURAO

(a) To cater international operations at Tirupati Airport, the work for extension of existing Runway from 2286m X 45m to 3810m X 45m for operation of Code-E type of Aircraft is under progress.

Presently, there is no scheduled international flight operations at Tirupati airport. Airlines plan their international flight schedule on a specific route based on Bilateral Air services agreement between two countries, market demand and as per respective company policy.

(b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approves Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) as per laid down rules and regulations, following a five-phase certification process. On the basis of these regulations, the interested organization/individual applies to DGCA for setting up of a new FTO.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) brought out a liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) policy whereby the concept of airport royalty (revenue share payment by FTOs to AAI) has been abolished and land rentals have been significantly rationalized, in order to bring more and more investment in FTO sector.

Further, AAI has issued Land Management circular in June 2023 through which allotment of land/space for setting up FTOs at AAI Airports to willing agencies on card rate basis for a period of 25 years. No royalty/concession fee shall be payable/applicable.

Currently, M/s Flytech Aviation Academy has a flying base at Nagarjuna Sagar Airfield. Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

AAI has received requests from M/s BES Space Private Limited and M/s ARCA for allotment of land for setting up of FTO in Andhra Pradesh. Request of M/s BES Space Private Limited for allotment of land for FTO at Vijayawada Airport is approved.

There are 05 Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs) in Andhra Pradesh providing drone operation training:-

- (i) Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural university (ANGRAU), Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
- (ii) Centurion School of Rural Enterprise Management Trust. Vizinagram District, Andhra Pradesh
- (iii) Raxa Security Services Ltd, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) Drogo Drones Private Limited, Hindupur Taluk, Andhra Pradesh.
- (v) Akin Analytics Solution Pvt. Ltd., Amalapuram, Andhra Pradesh.

(c) During induction for admission into Commercial Pilot License (CPL) and Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) courses in Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), reservation / relaxation is provided to SC/ST students as per Government of India rules. The number of enrolled SC/ST students in IGRUA for CPL induction for the session 2024-25 is as follows:-

| Category | Total Seats | Candidates joined/inducted |
|----------|-------------|----------------------------|
| SC | 19 | 18 |
| ST | 10 | 07 |

The Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) has been established by an Act of Parliament viz. Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Act, 2013 at Fursatganj Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. RGNAU follows following steps to increase SC/ST student enrollment:-

- (i) Reservation / relaxation to SC/ST students as per Government of India rules.
- (ii) 5% relaxation of marks in admission/enrolment is available in RGNAU for SC / ST Students.

(d) Currently, there is no such proposal under consideration of this Ministry.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approves FTOs as per laid down rules and regulations.

भारत सरकार
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय
राज्य सभा
मौखिक प्रश्न संख्या : 9

सोमवार, 3 फरवरी, 2025 (14 माघ, 1946 (शक)) को दिया जाने वाला उत्तर

तिरुपति विमान पत्तन का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हब के रूप में विकास

***9. श्री गोला बाबूराव:**

क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) तिरुपति विमान पत्तन को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय केन्द्र के रूप में विकसित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं;

(ख) आंध्र प्रदेश में विमानन प्रशिक्षण संस्थान स्थापित करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए गए हैं;

(ग) क्या विमानन प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के छात्रों के नामांकन में वृद्धि करने के लिए कोई विशिष्ट प्रावधान किए गए हैं अथवा योजनाएं बनाई गई हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार के पास सामाजिक-आर्थिक रूप से वंचित पृष्ठभूमि वाले छात्रों के लिए विमानन अध्ययन की वहनीयता बढ़ाने के लिए कोई समर्पित निधि अथवा योजनाएं मौजूद हैं?

उत्तर

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री किंजरापु राममोहन नायडू)

(क) से (घ) : विवरण सदन के पटल पर रखा गया है।

“तिरुपति विमान पत्तन का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हब के रूप में विकास” के संबंध में श्री गोला बाबूराव द्वारा पूछे गए दिनांक 03.02.2025 के राज्य सभा मौखिक प्रश्न संख्या 9 के संबंध में भाग (क) से (घ) के उत्तर में संदर्भित विवरण

(क) तिरुपति हवाईअड्डे पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परिचालन को सुलभ बनाने के लिए, कोड-ई प्रकार के विमानों के परिचालन हेतु मौजूदा रनवे को 2286 मीटर x 45 मीटर से बढ़ाकर 3810 मीटर x 45 मीटर तक विस्तारित करने का कार्य प्रगति पर है।

वर्तमान में, तिरुपति हवाईअड्डे पर कोई अनुसूचित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ान परिचालन नहीं है। एयरलाइनें दो देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय हवाई सेवा समझौते, बाजार की मांग और संबंधित कंपनी की नीति के अनुसार विशिष्ट मार्ग पर अपने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ान शेड्यूल की योजना बनाती हैं।

(ख) नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) पाँच चरणीय प्रमाणन प्रक्रिया के अनुसरण के पश्चात निर्धारित नियमों और विनियमों के अनुसार उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठनों (एफटीओ) को अनुमोदित करता है। इन विनियमों के आधार पर, इच्छुक संगठन/व्यक्ति नए एफटीओ की स्थापना के लिए डीजीसीए के समक्ष आवेदन करता है।

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) ने उदार उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठन (एफटीओ) नीति प्रस्तुत की है, जिसके तहत एफटीओ क्षेत्र में अधिक से अधिक निवेश लाने के लिए हवाईअड्डा रॉयल्टी (एफटीओ द्वारा एएआई को राजस्व हिस्सेदारी का भुगतान) की अवधारणा को समाप्त कर दिया गया है और भूमि किराए को काफी हद तक युक्तिसंगत बनाया गया है।

इसके अलावा, भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) ने जून 2023 में भूमि प्रबंधन परिपत्र जारी किया है जिसके माध्यम से एएआई हवाईअड्डों पर एफटीओ स्थापित करने के लिए इच्छुक एजेंसियों को कार्ड दर के आधार पर 25 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए भूमि/स्थान का आवंटन किया जाएगा। कोई रॉयल्टी/रियायती शुल्क देय/लागू नहीं होगा।

वर्तमान में, मैसर्स फ्लाईटेक एविएशन अकादमी का नागार्जुन सागर एयरफील्ड, गुंटूर, आंध्र प्रदेश में एक उड़ान बेस है।

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण को आंध्र प्रदेश में एफटीओ की स्थापना के लिए भूमि आवंटन हेतु मैसर्स बीईएस स्पेस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और मैसर्स एआरसीए से अनुरोध प्राप्त हुए हैं। विजयवाड़ा हवाईअड्डे पर एफटीओ के लिए भूमि आवंटन हेतु मैसर्स बीईएस स्पेस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के अनुरोध को अनुमोदित कर दिया गया है।

आंध्र प्रदेश में ड्रोन परिचालन प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने वाले 05 रिमोट पायलट प्रशिक्षण संगठन (आरपीटीओ) हैं:-

(i) आचार्य एन.जी. रंगा कृषि विश्वविद्यालय (एएनजीआरएयू), गुंटूर, आंध्र प्रदेश।

(ii) सैंचुरियन स्कूल ऑफ रूरल एंटरप्राइज मैनेजमेंट ट्रस्ट, विजिनगरम जिला, आंध्र प्रदेश।

(iii) रक्सा सिक्योरिटी सर्विसेज लिमिटेड, गुंटूर, आंध्र प्रदेश।

(iv) ड्रोगो ड्रॉन्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, हिंदूपुर तालुक, आंध्र प्रदेश।

(v) अकिन एनालिटिक्स सॉल्यूशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, अमलापुरम, आंध्र प्रदेश

(ग) इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय उड़ान अकादमी (इगुआ) में वाणिज्यिक पायलट लाइसेंस (सीपीएल) और एयरक्राफ्ट मेंटेनेंस इंजीनियरिंग (एएमई) पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश के लिए इंडक्शन के दौरान, भारत सरकार के नियमों के अनुसार अनुसूचित जाति/ अनुसूचित जनजाति छात्रों को आरक्षण/छूट प्रदान की जाती है। सत्र 2024-25 के लिए सीपीएल प्रवेश हेतु इगुआ में नामांकित अनुसूचित जाति/ अनुसूचित जनजाति के छात्रों की संख्या इस प्रकार है:-

| श्रेणी | कुल सीटें | शामिल/प्रवेशित उम्मीदवार |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| अ.जा. | 19 | 18 |
| अ.ज.जा. | 10 | 07 |

संसद के अधिनियम अर्थात राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय विमानन विश्वविद्यालय अधिनियम, 2013 द्वारा फुरसतगंज अमेठी, उत्तर प्रदेश में राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय विमानन विश्वविद्यालय (आरजीएनएयू) की स्थापना की गई है। आरजीएनएयू अनुसूचित जाति/ अनुसूचित जनजाति के छात्रों के नामांकन को बढ़ाने के लिए निम्नलिखित उपायों का अनुसरण किया जा रहा है:-

(i) भारत सरकार के नियमों के अनुसार एससी/एसटी छात्रों को आरक्षण/छूट।

(ii) आरजीएनएयू में अनुसूचित जाति/ अनुसूचित जनजाति छात्रों के लिए प्रवेश/नामांकन हेतु अंकों में 5% की छूट उपलब्ध है।

(घ) वर्तमान में, इस मंत्रालय के पास ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन नहीं है।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) निर्धारित नियमों और विनियमों के अनुसार उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठनों को अनुमोदन प्रदान करता है।

SHRIMATI SUDHA MURTY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Vijayapura and Bijapur are very famous tourist places in Northern Karnataka. There are four months in a year when there is winter; otherwise, it is extremely hot there. Many people are dependent on tourism. The airport is ready. When I talk to people from the State Government, they say that the Centre should give permission. When I talk to people in the Central Government, they say, State Government should give permission. Sir, I want an answer in writing as to when we would be getting flights. Every time I ask this question, I am told, 'We would let you know'. This time, I want to know when you would give us flights so that we can fly. Secondly, you said that there are 54 Civil Aviation Colleges. That is a very small number for a population of 140 crore. There are no Government aviation schools in many areas. Please enhance that. It is not possible for everyone to go abroad through private airlines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister; I am sure you are not going to say 'as soon as possible'.

SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU: Definitely not, Sir. Sir, this question was related to Tirupati, but the hon. Member has asked about Vijayapura. We have been closely following up the completion of the airport at Vijayapura. We are at the last leg of completion and all the licensing is ready. Soon we can do the commencement. Most probably, we would get it done this year. I would give it to you in writing also as to when we can exactly do it. Whether it is with the State Government or with us, we would together follow it up so that we can get the operations started at Vijayapura Airport as soon as possible. I would definitely give it in writing also as to when we can do it. In the second part of her question, Madam has asked about the flight training organizations where the pilots and maintenance engineers get trained. In fact, we too feel that there is requirement for a lot more. We have 54 now, three more are under commencement and nine more are in the pipeline for permission. They have applied for permission to start. Right now, with the capacity we have, we are generating around 1,500 to 1,600 pilots every year. We feel that there is a lot more needed, not only domestically but also at the global scale. We want our Indian pilots, who are getting trained here, to operate globally also. We see that there is a demand which we can take right now and increase the number of FTOs in the country.

We are actively putting the word forward that anyone who wants to start flight training organization, please come forward. We are giving our airports because we have a lot more airports. You have talked about parking space. In the next 5 years, we are planning 50 airports; next 10 years, we are planning 100 airports and in the next 20 years, we are planning 200 more airports. As the demand increases, we need some space to park planes also. So, in that context, definitely, we are going to

increase the infrastructure in the coming days. This is one thought process, we already have, that space is required, more infrastructure is required and flight training organisations are also required. We are increasing the number at the moment and we want more people to come into the space and we are actively pursuing in that region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to help the hon. Member. You have not indicated in how much time you will reply to her.

SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU: We will have a meeting also with the hon. Member and the concerned stakeholders, so that you get full clarity on when we are going to start it and you might not need to ask the question again in the Parliament.

SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tirupati is a holy place internationally. Every day, more than 1 lakh to 2 lakh pilgrims or devotees are coming to Tirupati across the country and, at the same time, across the globe. I ask of the hon. Minister: Is there any proposal to increase the flight facilities or flight strength? At the same time, I request the hon. Minister to develop it as an international hub. The second question is: Is there any proposal to increase the SC, ST, OBC candidates in the training institutes?

SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU: Sir, Tirupati is an international destination for Hindu pilgrims and it is one of the biggest pilgrimage sites in the whole world and, definitely, there is a lot of demand for more connectivity. Recently, after I took charge as the Minister, we put special focus on Tirupati airport and first time we have started direct connectivity from Delhi after a long time. It was not there for 4-5 years; it was stopped during the COVID time. We have started a direct flight from Delhi. We have also started a direct flight from Mumbai. There is a constant increase in demand flowing from Hyderabad which caters as a hub for that region and we have increased the number of flights. Hon. Member would be happy to know that there are 13 direct flights every day from Hyderabad to Tirupati and the number is continuously increasing. Wherever there is a demand, the airlines definitely follow the demand and they cater to the demand. So, in the coming days, we are going to see more number of flights operating to Tirupati. And, in terms of terminal capacity that we have, it is pretty much adequate for passenger movement that we have today. In future also, we have expansion plans. Whenever it gets to its saturation mode, we have sufficient land so that we can expand it. We are trying to build General Aviation Terminal there because there is a lot of charter movement happening in Tirupati. So, we are trying to build it there. Around the airport also, we are trying to create more facilities for passengers in terms of hotel and other services which will create more of a hub kind

of atmosphere there. Since it is also an international airport, we are speaking with airlines, so that we can give any international connectivity to Tirupati. It will be more beneficial for the people there, not just for the pilgrims but there is a lot of migrant community which works abroad from that region. So, it will definitely facilitate them. Sir, special focus is being put on Tirupati to increase the connectivity. We have already done that in the last 7 months. If you see the increase in passenger capacity from that airport, it gives us an indication that it has steadily increased and it will increase in the future also.

In terms of reservation which has been talked about, we have one academy under the Government, namely, Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University and also Uran Akademy at Fursatganj. We follow the Government of India's guidelines and when admissions take place, 5 per cent relaxation is also given to SCs/STs, besides the quota which is sufficiently fulfilled by these students.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: Sir, considering the Aviation Ministry's policy goal of developing India as a global MRO and earlier inspections by the Canadian Aviation representatives to establish an MRO centre at Tirupati Airport, could the Minister provide the details on the progress of the same?

SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU: Sir, regarding MROs also, there has been a lot of interest from many foreign players and Indian players also to set up their activity in India. Now, coming to some of the numbers, we have 2 billion dollar industry for MROs today in the country. In the next six years, we want to double it and become a 4 billion dollar industry, and India has a potential to reach to that level also. India's MRO market is growing at three times more pace than the world market's growth, and this is also because of the guidance and vision of our hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Modiji, who has put special efforts in increasing the MRO network in the country, and which is why all airports are getting demands of setting up small MRO facilities. Likewise, in Tirupati also, the hon. Member has mentioned about one specific player, but there are multiple players who want to set up MRO facilities there. As that airport is under the Airports Authority of India, we are trying to facilitate as much as possible, but due guidelines and procedures have to be followed before we give the Expression of Interest to a specific person. So, that is in progress and we are proactively pursuing, so that we can set it up as soon as possible and it is in the process right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No.10 by Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam - not present. Hon. Minister. Any supplementaries? Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla. You must have asked today maximum number of supplementaries.

** Q. No.10 [The questioner was absent.]*