

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 652
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th February 2025)**

GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIR PASSENGERS

652. SHRI R. DHARMAR

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

- (a) the current growth rate of domestic and international air passengers in the country including in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the number of domestic and international passengers handled by Indian airports during the last year;
- (c) Government's initiatives to promote the growth of domestic and international air travel;
- (d) the steps being taken to improve infrastructure at airports to handle the growing number of passengers; and
- (e) the expected trends in the growth of air passengers in the next five years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (b): India is now the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world. With a 15% year-on-year increase in air passengers, Indian airports have handled 37.41 crore passengers in FY24 out of which 30.73 crore and 6.67 crore. Tamil Nadu has witnessed 14% growth in the (domestic + international) passengers from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016 which seeks to provide a conducive ecosystem for overall growth of the Indian aviation sector in a harmonised manner that includes infrastructure development of airports through greenfield projects as well as under the UDAN scheme and growth of all its sub-sectors viz airlines, MRO, FTO etc. 12 Greenfield airports have been built and operationalised since 2014. UDAN Scheme aims to stimulate regional air connectivity including in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, and making air travel affordable to the masses. 88 unserved/underserved airports, including 2 Water Aerodromes and 13 Heliports have been operationalised under the UDAN scheme since the inception of the scheme in 2016. As a result, the total

number of operational airports/heliports/water-aerodromes has increased from 74 in 2014 to 159 in 2024.

To improve the aviation infrastructure and to facilitate the air passengers in the country, Airport Authority of India (AAI) under Ministry of Civil Aviation had embarked upon a CAPEX plan of Rs. 25000 Crores during 5 years (2020-25) for development / upgradation / modernization of various airports in the country to meet the requirement of Air traffic / passenger's growth which includes New Airports, expansions/ modification of existing terminal, addition of new passenger facilities, New terminals, expansions / strengthening of existing runways, aprons, ANS work like control tower, technical block etc.

The upgradation of infrastructures/facilities at airports is a continuous process, which is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or the concerned Airport Operators depending upon operational requirements, traffic, demand, commercial feasibility etc. Both AAI and other PPP Airport Operators have embarked upon a Capex Plan for more than Rs.98,000 crore.

(e): The air passengers are expected to grow at the rate of approximately 15% per year for the next five years.
