

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 662
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th February 2025)**

PLANS TO USE BIO-FUELS AS AIRCRAFTS AND HELICOPTERS FUEL

662. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU

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

- (a) whether Government has any plans to use bio-fuels as aircrafts and helicopter fuel, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the progress on using bio-fuels as aircraft fuel to reduce atmospheric pollution;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the costworthiness regarding use of bio-fuels and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any test flights have been conducted as a feasibility check of the proposal and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) and (b) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has adopted a market based measure i.e. Carbon Offsetting Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) to reduce carbon emissions from international aviation. India, being a Member State of the ICAO, is under obligation to comply with the mandatory phase of CORSIA from 2027. Under the CORSIA scheme airlines are required to offset their emissions, above a set baseline.

CORSIA allows aircraft operators to reduce their offsetting requirements through the use of CORSIA eligible fuels, which include CORSIA sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and CORSIA lower carbon aviation fuels (LCAF).

National Biofuels Coordination Committee formed under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has recommended to blend Sustainable Aviation Fuel with ATF in near future with the following initial indicative blending percentages (initially for international flights):

- i.1% in 2027,
- ii.2% in 2028,
- iii. 5% by 2030.

(c) So far, no such study has been conducted in this regard.

(d) Sustainable Aviation Fuel have same specifications/composition as Jet A-1 fuels and are fully compatible with existing aircraft and fuel supply systems. SAF has been used in the following instances:

i)M/s Vistara operated ferry flight of B-787 from USA to India using 28% of SAF blended fuel on 29th March 2023.

ii)M/s Air Asia operated first commercial domestic flight (Pune to Delhi) with 0.75% SAF blended fuel on 19th May 2023.

iii)M/s Spicejet flight operated with 25% SAF (Biofuel produced by Indian Institute of Petroleum, CSIR lab) blended with ATF from Dehradun to Delhi in August, 2018.

iv)All Airbus ferry flights fly on 5% SAF blended fuel from Toulouse to India.
