

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 177**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015)

**ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICES FUND TO FACILITATE REGIONAL  
AIR CONNECTIVITY**

177. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that regional connectivity will not become viable unless the Government provides subsidy to fly to these destinations;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that remote area connectivity is extremely important for a large country like India;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the regional connectivity is recently unviable given low demand and high cost of operations;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that this needs to be facilitated by way of an essential air services fund as recommended by Naresh Chandra Committee in 2003; and
- (e) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) to (e): The regional connectivity is being accorded higher priority by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and accordingly the Draft National Civil Aviation Policy inter alia provides for Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) by levying 2% on all domestic & international tickets on all routes other than Cat IIA routes and Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) routes for providing Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for scheduled commuter airlines.

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