

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 179
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st December 2015)

BOOSTING AIR CONNECTIVITY TO TIER-II AND TIER-III CITIES

179. **SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM**

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

- (a) whether Centre is working on a plan to operationalise about fifty airports in the country that are currently non-functional in order to boost air connectivity to tier-II and tier-III cities across the country;
- (b) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had been mandated to develop five no-frills airports and if so, the progress of work made so far on these projects; and
- (c) whether AAI had invested over 300 crores on modernisation of over eight airports which are not yet operational for want of flights turning them into 'ghost-airports'?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

- (a): Government of India has formulated a Draft National Civil Aviation Policy in order to promote Regional Connectivity across the country. The Policy encourages for revival of unserved and underserved aerodromes and airstrips as no-frills airports to provide connectivity to the Tier-II and Tier-III cities.
- (b): The draft National Civil Aviation Policy provides for the revival of air strips, depending on demand, as No-Frills Airports mostly through Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has undertaken works at five locations, namely, Hubli and Belgaum in Karnataka, Kishangarh in Rajasthan, Jharsuguda in Odisha and Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh.
- (c): AAI has undertaken the development and modernization of airports at Bathinda, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Gondia, Jalgaon, Kadappa, Puducherry and Mysore. Out of these airports, scheduled operations have started at Kadappa, Puducherry and Mysore whereas flying training facilities are provided at Gondia airport which is under use for trainee pilots.
