

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 508
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12th December 2022)

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN CIVIL AVIATION SECTOR

508. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that it must play a supportive role and aid in the creation of stable and growth-enhancing competition in the civil aviation sector?
- (b) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government is proactively supporting the aviation sector by providing a stable policy environment and incentivising competition led growth. India is one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world and is already the third largest domestic aviation market.

In 2016, the Government released the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP 2016), which laid out the vision, mission and key objectives for the sector. It covers the aviation value chain including regional connectivity, safety, security, airlines, airports, bilateral traffic rights, code-share agreements, air navigation, helicopters, cargo, manufacturing, maintenance and skill development etc.

The Government has announced new MRO guidelines on 1st September, 2021 with a view to create a congenial atmosphere in the country for the development of the MRO industry for aircrafts/ helicopters/ drones and their engines and other parts. These guidelines inter-alia provide for the allotment of land at AAI airports through call of open tenders without levy of any royalty or cess of whatsoever nature to MRO operators.

Similarly, liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) guidelines have been approved wherein the concept of airport royalty (revenue share payment by FTOs

to AAI) has been abolished and land rentals have been significantly rationalised to encourage setting up of FTOs to address the shortage of pilots in the country.

The Government has also formulated Helicopter Operation Policy to encourage helicopter operations creating demand and growth.

After two decades a, new airline namely Akasa Air has started its operations in 2021.

The number of airports operational and the total fleet strength of schedule Indian airlines is as below:

Year	airports	fleet size
2013-14	74	300
2022-23	146	700 (approx.)

In order to boost the aviation infrastructure, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and private airport companies have taken up the development of new and existing airports with a projected capital expenditure of approximately Rs 98,000 crore in the next five years.

The Government has accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country. So far, nine Greenfield airports have already been operationalized.

The Government has approved the 'Revival of unserved and under-served airports' scheme for the revival and development of 100 unserved and under-served airports of State Governments, Airports Authority of India, Civil Enclaves, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Helipads and Water Aerodromes by 2024.

The Government launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) in October 2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country by making air travel affordable to the masses. As on 30th November 2022, 453 UDAN routes have been operationalised across the country, connecting 70 UDAN airports including 2 water aerodromes and 9 heliports.
