

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1137

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13th February 2023

AIR PASSENGERS IN MAHARASHTRA

1137. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK

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

- (a) whether the number of air passengers are increasing in Maharashtra every year;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase air services in Maharashtra in view of increasing number of passengers;**
- (c) whether Government has any statistics regarding number of air passengers in the country;**
- (d) if so, the number of passengers who travelled by air during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and revenue generated by Government; and**
- (e) whether there are many towns and cities in the country which are not connected by air travel and if so, the steps taken in this regard?**

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN.
(DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

(a) to (e): Number of air passengers have been increasing, like the rest of the country, in the State of Maharashtra. Under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, 73 routes involving six airports in Maharashtra namely Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Nanded, Nasik, Gondia & Sindhudurg have been operationalised for UDAN flights.

With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation market has been deregulated. Consequently, for

commercial flight operations, airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type for selecting whatever markets and networks they wish to operate across the country. Thus, it is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and their commercial viability, in compliance with the extant guidelines in this regard.

During 2019-20, all scheduled carriers handled 34.10 crore air passengers. Due to the adverse effect of COVID-19 on aviation industry worldwide, the total number of passengers carried by the scheduled carriers decreased to 11.53 crore during 2020-21. The details of passenger traffic since 2019-20 to December 2022 is attached at Annexure.

Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses.

As on 31.01.2023, after four rounds of bidding under UDAN, 1150 routes have been awarded out of which 461 routes have commenced, operationalising 73 Airports including 2 Water Aerodrome & 9 Heliports. More than 2.16 lakh UDAN flights have operated and over 1.13 crore passengers have availed the benefits in UDAN flights so far. The scheme has been able to provide air connectivity to Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities at affordable airfares and has transformed the way people travel.

ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1137 FOR
ANSWER ON 13.02.2023**

Number of Passengers carried by Schedules Carriers

Financial year	No. of Passengers (in crore)
2019-20	34.10
2020-21	11.53
2021-22	18.88
2022-23 (upto December)	23.67

(Source: Airports Authority of India)

