

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 338
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th February 2023)**

AIR TRANSPORTATION FROM KERALA TO LAKSHADWEEP

338. DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL

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

- (a) whether Government has prepared any better plan to the current one to reach the Union Territory of Lakshadweep from Kerala and to ensure movement among all the ten islands of Lakshadweep; and
(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) & (b): As per ongoing Winter Schedule-2022, Alliance Air is operating 7 flights per week on the Kochi-Agatti route. With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act, 1953, in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation market was deregulated. Consequently, airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type for selecting whatever markets and networks they wish to service and 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 relevant guidelines.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses which includes airports/heliports/water aerodromes.

Till the completion of four rounds of bidding, twenty (20) routes involving eight (8) water aerodromes have been identified/awarded in Lakshadweep (UT) for seaplane operations which are Kavaratti, Minicoy, Agatti, Kalpeni, Bitra, Kadmat, Kiltan, & Bangaram.

(a)
