

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 3539
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd April 2023)

INCREASE OF NUMBER OF FLIGHTS FROM KERALA TO UT OF LAKSHADWEEP

3539. DR. C.M. RAMESH

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

- (a) whether Government proposed to increase the number of existing flights from Kerala to Union Territory of Lakshadweep to attract more tourists to visit that place, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor? and
- (b) the details of air passengers who visited UT of Lakshadweep from Kerala by air in different airlines during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) & (b): As per ongoing Summer Schedule-2023, 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 Desh ka 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.

The number of passengers handled in Lakshadweep from 2019-20 to 2022-23 is as under:

Year	Number of passengers handled
2019-20	41146
2020-21	6120
2021-22	34896
2022-23	40955 (upto January, 2023)

Source: Airports Authority of India.
