

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 340
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th July 2023)**

AIRPORTS IN MADHYA PRADESH

340. SHRI KAILASH SONI

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

- (a) the number of airports of National Airport Authority of India in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the number of airports out of them proposed to be upgraded into international airports and the action taken therefor;
- (c) the airports upgraded and brought at par with the international standards; and
- (d) by when international flights that would be made operational from the State after the expansion and upgradation of the airports?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a): Airports Authority of India (AAI) owns seven airports in Madhya Pradesh at Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Khajuraho, Khandwa, Panna and Satna. Apart from this, AAI maintains a Civil Enclave at Gwalior Air Force Station.

(b) & (c): Declaration of an airport as International Airport depends upon traffic potential, demand from airlines for operation of international flights and bilateral Air Services Agreement. It also includes provision of Ground Lighting facilities, Instrument Landing System, runway length, Immigration, Health and Animal & Plant Quarantine services etc. The upgradation of airports to meet International Standards/Norms specified by International Organizations such as International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airport Council International (ACI) etc. is undertaken by AAI or the concerned Airport Operators from time to time depending upon commercial viability, traffic demand, availability of land, willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports etc. In Madhya Pradesh, Indore Airport is already a Customs airport having international operations.

(d): Indian designated carriers are free to mount scheduled operations to/from any International/Customs airport to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral Air Service Agreements (ASAs) concluded by India with foreign countries. The Government only provides an enabling environment for operation of international

flights and has no direct role in the start of flights as commencement of international flights by Indian carriers from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of scheduled airlines on the basis of traffic demand, airports flight handling capacity, safety infrastructure and economic viability of the route.
