

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1633**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

**DUAL USE OF THANJAVUR AIR FORCE STATION**

1633. SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM

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

- (a) whether Government has any plans to convert the Thanjavur Air Force station into a dual use civilian/military aerodrome and the details thereof considering the fact that the South Indian Kumbh Mela Mahamaham is scheduled in 2028;
- (b) whether Government has any plans to open a new airport in Thanjavur district and the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve air connectivity for Thanjavur district and the temple town of Kumbakonam and the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) in October, 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. The existing Thanjavur Airport belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF). The airport has been identified in the 2nd round of bidding under RCS for upgradation/development of a civil enclave at the airport and the operation of RCS flights therefrom.

(b) & (c): Government of India (GoI) has formulated a Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008 which provides detailed guidelines, procedures and steps related to construction of Greenfield airports across the Country. Under the GFA Policy, the project proponent- an airport developer or the respective State Government willing to establish a Greenfield airport is required to send a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in the prescribed format available at [www.civilaviation.gov.in](http://www.civilaviation.gov.in) for 2-stage process i.e., 'Site Clearance' followed by an 'In-Principle' approval. Such proposals are considered by MoCA as per the procedure stipulated in the GFA Policy. No proposal as per GFA Policy for development of Greenfield airport in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu has been received in the MoCA.

(d): Under UDAN 4.2 round of bidding, RCS routes connecting Thanjavur with Bengaluru and Chennai have been awarded to Air Taxi for operation of flights with 9-seater type of aircraft.

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