

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 176
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th February 2024)**

DEVELOPMENT OF PUDUCHERRY AIRPORT

176. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY

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

- (a) whether the Puducherry Airport is proposed to be developed for operating more flights;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status on the expansion of the Puducherry Airport;
- (d) whether Government is aware that presently only one flight service i.e. Spicejet is operating from Puducherry Airport, even the said flight gets cancelled very frequently, affecting the tourists at large; and
- (e) if so, whether other flight services will be made operational to Puducherry?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (c): The existing airport at Puducherry has a runway length of 1502m which is suitable for operation of 72-Seater Q-400/ATR-72 type of aircraft. The extension of its runway upto 3330m to make it suitable for operation of A-321 type of aircraft is contingent upon handing over of an additional 395 acre of land in Tamil Nadu and 30 acre of land in Puducherry by the respective State Government/ Union Territory Administration. As per National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, the land for development of an airport is to be provided by the respective State Government/ Union Territory Administration free of cost and free from any encumbrances to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(d) & (e): With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation market has been deregulated. Airlines are free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate across the country. It is up to the airlines to introduce air services to / from any airport in the country depending upon the traffic demand and their operational and commercial viability.
