

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 47
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22nd July 2024)**

AIR CARGO INDUSTRY IN INDIA

47. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN

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

- (a) the air cargo industry in the country has huge potential but it has not been able to match any world-class airports and if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the reasons behind this potential remaining untapped and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to tap the market potential in terms of air cargo and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) steps taken by Government to develop air cargo terminals in Chennai, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Madurai and Thoothukudi airports; and
- (e) total income generated from cargo handling at airports in Tamil Nadu in the last five years, year-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): The market potential of Air Cargo Industry in India is encouraging. During the Covid-19 pandemic, air cargo industry in India demonstrated its potential by air transporting essential goods, medicines, medical equipment etc. at a time when the transportation industry including air transportation of passengers had come to a standstill.

The Government has undertaken various steps to tap the market potential in terms of air cargo. These steps inter-alia include:

(i) Comprehensive National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) launched in 2016 for promoting rapid growth of the sector, ease of doing business and advanced regional connectivity.

(ii) AAI Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company Limited (AAICLAS) set up as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Airports Authority of India (AAI) in 2016 for business development of air cargo, logistics and allied services at AAI managed airports.

(iii) AAICLAS has operationalised 19 International Cargo Terminal facilities, 33

Domestic Cargo Terminal facilities and 02 Courier Terminal facilities.

(iv) Domestic Air Cargo handling has commenced from Domestic Passenger Terminals at 21 Airports namely Agra, Adampur, Belagavi, Bhavnagar, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Gwalior, Hindon, Jabalpur, Jalgaon, Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Jorhat, Kalaburagi, Kolhapur, Lilabari, Mysuru, Prayagraj, Tezpur, Tuticorin, & Udaipur with Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) approval

(v) Through Air Services Agreement, efforts have been made to ensure fair and equitable treatment to Indian carriers in the international sector.

(vi) Airlines have been encouraged to increase their freighter strength.

(vii) During the pandemic, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave special permission to modify the passenger aircraft into freighters known as Passenger to Cargo or P2C aircraft, for efficient freight movement.

(d) Movement of air cargo in Tamil Nadu is facilitated through Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Madurai and Thoothukudi airports. Dedicated air cargo terminals are available at Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore & Madurai airports. Cargo at Thoothukudi airport is being facilitated through domestic passenger terminal.

(e) Details of revenue generated from cargo handling in the airports in Tamil Nadu in last 5 years is at Annexure.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 47 FOR ANSWER ON 22.07.2024

Revenue Generated from cargo handling in the airports in Tamil Nadu in last 5 years is hereunder:

(in Rs. Lakhs)

Airport	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Chennai	20,034.82	16,972.75	26,146.87	22,820.31	24,801.93
Coimbatore	329.67	199.20	249.82	278.50	502.00
Madurai	29.75	4.44	6.35	109.71	215.78
Thoothukudi	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.32	0.39
Tiruchirapalli	142.04	60.72	135.55	334.77	364.00
Total (Rs. In Lakhs)	20536.28	17237.10	26538.63	23543.61	25,884.10