

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 23**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

**KARNATAKA'S STRATEGIC POSITION IN PROMOTING TOURISM  
AND BUSINESS**

23. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR

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

- (a) whether Government will consider expanding direct international flights from airports in Tier-2 cities like Mysuru and Mangaluru to increase foreign tourist inflows and business opportunities;
- (b) whether there are plans to upgrade these regional airports in terms of runway capacity, passenger amenities, and customs facilities; and
- (c) the timelines for developing additional aviation infrastructure to reduce the load on Bengaluru's Kempegowda International airport?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): The international operations of airlines are governed by the bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective country. In accordance with ASA, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport to foreign destinations as per mutually agreed capacity limits, while any designated foreign airline can operate to/from a point in India if it is designated as a point of call in the ASA. The commencement of direct international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of scheduled airlines on the basis of passenger demand, availability of slots, economic viability of the route and other associated factors.

(b): The expansion and upgradation of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Airport Operators from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand/willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports. At Bengaluru Airport, a state-of-the-art Terminal Building (T-2) has been developed and operationalized in 2023. Additionally, AAI has undertaken the construction of New Domestic Terminal Buildings along with the associated works at Belagavi and Hubballi Airports in Karnataka enabling these airports to handle 3.5 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) each, upon

completion.

(c): The Government of India has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for the development of new Greenfield Airports at Shivamogga, Vijayapura and Hassan in Karnataka. Shivamogga airport has already been made operational in 2023. Being located in proximity to Bengaluru, the Hassan airport aims to enhance connectivity and alleviate the air traffic burden on Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport. The timeline for construction of airports depends upon various factors such as land acquisition, mandatory clearances, removal of obstacles, financial closure etc. by the respective airport developers.

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