

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**

Rajya Sabha

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 30

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25th November 2024

**DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM AMRITSAR TO NANDED, PATNA,
GUWAHATI AND DHARMSALA TO VARIOUS DESTINATIONS**

30. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

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

- (a) the data on the current number of direct flights operating from Amritsar to major domestic destinations, and the criteria for selecting new routes;**
- (b) the reasons for the delay or absence of direct flights from Amritsar to Nanded, Patna, Guwahati, and Dharamsala, despite demonstrated demand, supported by passenger and tourism data;**
- (c) whether Government has sanctioned an airport for Doaba region in Adampur, but has failed to start flight operations; and**
- (d) whether Government plans to address the connectivity issues for Amritsar particularly with the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, and the specific timelines and targets for introducing direct flights to these international destinations?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (b): The current domestic air connectivity from Amritsar Airport is attached at Annexure.

With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation was totally deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate with the compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government, slot

allocated by the respective airport operators and further approval of schedule from DGCA. Hence, it is up to the airline operator to consider the introduction or continuation of air services to/ from any city in the country depending on their operational and commercial viabilities.

(c): During the 1st round of bidding under the UDAN scheme, the Adampur airport, was identified for developing and operating RCS flights. The airport was developed with a cost of Rs. 124.91 Crore under the UDAN scheme.

The UDAN Round 1 & 3 RCS routes connecting Adampur with Delhi, Jaipur, and Mumbai were launched by SpiceJet. Further, under the UDAN 5.0 round of bidding, the RCS routes connecting Adampur to Hindon were awarded to Star Air, and the airline commenced flight operations on 31st March 2024.

(d): International flight operations are governed by a bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective countries. In accordance with ASA, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport including the Airport in Amritsar to foreign destinations including the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand as per mutually agreed capacity limits. However, the start of international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of the airlines on the basis of the economic viability of the route and other associated factors.

ANNEXURE

Domestic Air Connectivity for Amritsar Airport

Airport	Airline	City Connected	Weekly Movements (Arr.+Dep.)
AMRITSAR (Domestic)	Indigo, Alliance Air, Air India, Air India Express, Akasa, Spicejet, Vistara	Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Shamshabad, Lucknow, Pune, Srinagar, Dehradun, Kullu, Shimla, Jaipur	454