GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2402
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th August 2025)

STANDARD FINANCIAL QUALIFICATION NORMS FOR AIRPORT OPERATION CONTRACTS

2402. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL

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

(a) whether due process and standard financial qualification norms were followed while awarding airport operation contracts to the Adani Group in 2019;
(b) whether there was any deviation from usual eligibility criteria, particularly relating to experience in airport operations; and
(c) the reasons for relaxing norms (if any), and compare it with the norms applied to other private operators such as AAI, Fairfax, GMR and GVK?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): In 2018, Government of India constituted the Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog, to take forward the bidding process of six airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) namely Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru for their Operations, Management and Development under Public Private Partnership (PPP). EGoS finalized the contours of the bidding process which inter-alia included various provisions viz. no prior airport experience etc. These provisions ensured that there are more bidders ensuring more competition. As a result, AAI received a total of 32 bids from 10 entities for its PPP proposal of six airports and thereafter following due procedure, these six airports were leased to the highest bidder.

There was no deviation in the bidding process from the contours as was decided by EGoS.

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