GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2724
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th August 2025)

AIR CONNECTIVITY TO AND FROM PUNJAB

2724.   SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

(a) steps being taken to enhance air connectivity between the State of Punjab and major cities across the country, as well as international destinations; and
(b) whether there are any initiatives to introduce more budget-friendly flight options for passengers traveling from the State of Punjab?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

 (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) The State of Punjab is served by two international airports, at Amritsar and Chandigarh as well as domestic airports at Ludhiana, Bhatinda, Adampur and Pathankot. A new integrated terminal at Halwara Airport, owned by IAF, is being developed.
With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation has been 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 the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government. Hence, it is up to the airline operator to introduce air services to/from any airport in the country, depending on their operational & commercial viability.

(b) The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) on 21st October 2016 to enhance regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable for the common citizen. RCS-UDAN is an ongoing market-driven scheme wherein bidding rounds are conducted periodically to expand connectivity from unserved and underserved airports. Based on assessed demand for specific routes, airlines submit bids under the Scheme. Valid bids are awarded to airlines for operationalisation of Routes under the Scheme post-readiness of the airport.
Beas and Patiala airstrips in Punjab are available in the RCS Scheme document for bidding.

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