

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 55  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025)**

**STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE INDIAN AVIATION SECTOR**

55. SHRI JAGGESH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the transformation of the Indian aviation sector post-2014 has significantly contributed to country's aspiration of becoming a \$5 trillion economy;
- (b) whether major structural reforms were introduced in the Indian aviation sector post 2014 and manner in which they have impacted the industry;
- (c) the major achievements in terms of airport modernisation and greenfield airport projects post-2014;
- (d) whether the reforms implemented since 2014 have adequately addressed the challenges in the Indian aviation sector, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) other measures taken by Government to strengthen the aviation sector, details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (e): India is one of the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world and is already the third largest domestic aviation market. To address the growing demands and emerging challenges in the sector, the Government of India has undertaken several significant reforms. The major initiatives and their outcomes are outlined below:

(i) Ministry of Civil Aviation issued the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016 which seeks to provide a conducive ecosystem for overall growth of the Indian aviation sector in a harmonised manner that includes growth of all its sub-sectors viz airlines, airports, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), Flying Training Organization (FTO) etc. Post-NCAP, the sector has witnessed substantial growth. The number of countries with direct international connections by Indian carriers has expanded from 25 in 2014 to 35 in 2024. Furthermore, the total number of aircraft in scheduled operations has more than doubled, increasing from 400 in 2014 to 834 as on 31st December 2024.

(ii) The Government has launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN scheme in October, 2016 to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity by reviving unserved and underserved airports in Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities, for making air travel affordable to the masses. The Scheme ensures affordability as the airfares on the seats on which Viability Gap Funding is provided are capped at affordable rates, as determined by the Government. Since the commencement of the RCS-UDAN scheme, 637 RCS routes have been operationalized, connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports across the country. Under the UDAN Scheme, 153.59 lakh domestic passengers have travelled in more than 3.14 lakh RCS flights as of July 15, 2025.

(iii) The number of operational airports has increased from 74 in 2014 to 162 at present. Since 2014, 12 Greenfield airports at Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar, Itanagar (Hollongi), Mopa, Shivamogga, and Rajkot (Hirasar) have been developed and made operational. Further, key airport expansion projects such as those at Chennai, Sri Vijayapuram, Ayodhya, Delhi, Bengaluru, Patna, Dehradun, Pune, Kolhapur, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Lucknow, and Tiruchirapalli airports, among others, have been implemented since 2014.

(iv) The total capacity of all the operational airports in the country has increased from approx. 200 million passengers per annum (MPPA) in 2014 to more than 500 MPPA at present.

(v) The Bhartiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 has replaced the Aircraft Act 1934 and is another step towards achieving 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

(vi) AAI, as the sole Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) in India, has consistently modernised air navigation infrastructure and upgraded air traffic management systems to keep pace with increasing air traffic.

(vii) Several digital initiatives have been launched by the Government to enhance transparency, efficiency, and user convenience in the aviation sector. These include platforms such as e-SHAJ, e-GCA, e-BCAS, AirSewa, Digital Sky, and DigiYatra, aimed at improving ease of doing business and ease of living.

(viii) The Government announced new Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) guidelines on September 1, 2021 which inter alia abolish royalties and build in transparency and certainty in land allotments for MROs in AAI airports.

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