

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1789**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9th March 2026**  
**FLIGHT CONNECTIVITY IN TAMIL NADU**

1789. SHRI ANTHIYUR P. SELVARASU

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

- (a) whether Government has examined the adequacy of flight connectivity available from Salem airport for residents of Erode district, the State of Tamil Nadu, particularly for onward travel and time-sensitive journeys;
- (b) if so, the details of consultations undertaken with airlines and airport authorities to add new destinations and improve flight frequency and scheduling; and
- (c) the measures proposed to ensure stable operations of additional routes, affordable fares and improved passenger convenience benefiting Erode district users?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Salem Airport is presently connected to the cities namely Bengaluru, Shamshabad, Kochi, and Chennai, with 58 weekly flight movements (arrivals + departures) operated by M/s IndiGo and M/s Alliance Air.

Under the UDAN 5.0 round of bidding, RCS routes connecting Salem Airport with Bengaluru and Kochi were awarded to Alliance Air, and the airline commenced flight operations on these routes w.e.f. 16.10.2023. Additionally, RCS routes connecting Salem with Bengaluru and Hyderabad, with a frequency of four flights per week, have been awarded to IndiGo. The airline commenced RCS flight operations on these routes as per the assigned frequencies on 30.10.2023.

Further, with the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation has been deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type and to select the markets and networks they wish to serve and operate. Hence, it is for the airline operators to consider the introduction or expansion of air services to/from any airport in the country, depending upon their operational and commercial viability.

\*\*\*\*\*