

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 14
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July 2026
UPGRADATION OF TUTICORIN AIRPORT

14. SHRI I.S. INBADURAI

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) airport is presently operating only with small ATR aircraft services and has limited air connectivity;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to upgrade the airport infrastructure to facilitate operation of bigger aircraft and improve passenger capacity, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to enhance air connectivity from Thoothukudi to major domestic metro cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Hyderabad as well as to international destinations, and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): At present, Tuticorin Airport only has ATR72-type aircraft operations. Indigo operates 70 flights per week to/from Tuticorin Airport connecting Bangalore and Chennai. The Airport was upgraded with a new terminal building with annual passenger handling capacity of 2.1 million passengers (MPPA) and a peak-hour capacity of 1,440 passengers and extension of the runway to 3,115 m x 45 m to facilitate operations of larger aircraft. Night flight operations have also commenced at the airport.

Since deregulation of the domestic aviation sector in 1994, airlines determine their aircraft deployment and route network based on operational and commercial viability. Accordingly, introduction of air services is at the discretion of the airlines.
