

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1626

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026

ENHANCING THE POTENTIAL OF HALWARA AIRPORT

1626. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of the passenger traffic and cargo potential of Halwara (Ludhiana) airport considering Ludhiana's status as a major industrial and export hub;
- (b) whether Government proposes to encourage additional airlines to commence operations from the airport and to develop dedicated air cargo facilities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken to establish Halwara airport as a major aviation hub for central Punjab?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Halwara Airport, owned by the Indian Air Force, has been developed through a joint venture between the State Government of Punjab and the Airports Authority of India. At present, M/s Air India operates 28 weekly flights from Delhi to Halwara. With the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation sector was deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type and to select the markets and networks they wish to serve. Hence, it is up to the airline operators to introduce air services to and from any airport in the country, depending on their operational and commercial viability.

The development of cargo facilities at airports is a continuous process undertaken in a phased and demand-driven manner, aligned with actual cargo volumes, traffic potential and commercial viability.

Further development and modernisation of airport infrastructure are undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or the respective airport operators based on traffic demand, commercial viability and operational requirements.
