

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 26

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July 2026

**UPGRADATION OF AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND
CONNECTIVITY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

26. SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of present status of infrastructure and air connectivity at existing airports in Himachal Pradesh, namely Kangra (Gaggal), Kullu (Bhuntar) and Shimla;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the expansion/modernization plans approved or under progress at these airports, including runway extension at Shimla and increase in flight frequency/operational hours;
- (c) whether Government proposes to expedite these projects, and if so, the estimated cost and timeline thereof, airport-wise; and
- (d) steps taken/being taken by Government to improve air connectivity to Himachal Pradesh, and expected impact of these projects on tourism and regional development in the State?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Shimla Airport is connected to Delhi and Dharamsala. Kangra Airport is connected to Delhi, Jewar, Chandigarh and Shimla. Kullu Airport is connected to Amritsar, Delhi and Jaipur.

Kangra, Kullu, and Shimla airports have significant topographical constraints, limiting their development. On the request of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, AAI has prepared a proposal for the expansion of the existing Kangra Airport, for which 369.82 acres of land has been requested from the State Government, which is yet to be handed over to AAI. However, the expansion of the existing airports, including runway extension at Shimla and Kullu-Bhuntar, is not feasible due to challenging terrain, land constraints, etc.

Through the RCS-UDAN Scheme 40 routes have been operationalized in the state. With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation has been fully deregulated. Airlines are free to select markets and routes, induct any aircraft type, and operate in compliance with the Routes Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the government. Therefore, the decision to introduce air services to or from any airport depends on the airline operator's operational and commercial viability.
