

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 725
(To be answered on the 7th February 2019)**

NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

725. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether India needs a comprehensive aviation infrastructure overhaul as air traffic is booming;**
- (b) whether it is also true that developing airports like real estate business is doomed to fail;**
- (c) whether it is also true that the airports need to be developed first and foremost as a catalyst for economic development; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a): Yes, Madam. A comprehensive aviation capacity expansion program, NABH (NextGen Airports for Bharat) Nirman, as announced in the Union Budget 2018, is intended to develop sufficient airport and air space capacity. NABH Nirman, a multi-year program, envisages to expand India's aviation capacity 4 to 5 times to serve a billion passenger trips a year. This program includes overall passenger growth projections, detailed passenger forecasts for all major airports, new regulatory approaches for greenfield and brownfield airports, collaborative urban and land planning frameworks with various states, and necessary financing to build out aviation capacity. Various experts have estimated that aviation capacity expansion to reach a billion trips will require between Rs. 3 lakh crores and 4 lakh crores. Airport investments are required in both commercially viable major airports, minor airports operated as a public service and wide range of other landing facilities such as no-frills airports, helipads, and water-based ports for seaplanes. Significant investments are also required in managing air space and in digitizing air traffic management.

(b): India has witnessed double digit passenger growth at airports for 50 consecutive months and the trend is likely to continue. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a CAPEX plan of Rs. 25000 crores for next five years. Further, a total investment of Rs. 1 Lakh crores is expected in aviation sector of India in next five years, which includes CAPEX of AAI, airport expansion plans of Joint Venture (JV) Airports, development of Greenfield airports, development of airports under UDAN, purchase of aircraft by airlines etc.

(c) & (d): The development of airports provides fast and safe connectivity to remote places with rest of the country and brings business opportunities closer to people giving an impetus to economic development in the respective regions.