

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 295
(To be answered on the 8th December 2022)**

AMENDMENTS IN SLOT ALLOCATION GUIDELINES

**295. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR
SHRI BHOLA SINGH
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes amendments in slot allocation guidelines for airlines and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make it compulsory to blend sustainable fuel with the aviation fuel they use to achieve lower carbon emissions and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has removed the mandatory requirement to wear masks on flights and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the other steps being taken by the Government for development of civil aviation sector in the country?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री **(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

(a): A few requests have been received from the Aviation Sector to amend the 'Historicity Clause' of the existing Guidelines on Slot Allocation. Consequently, deliberations are being made on the same in consultation with all the stakeholders. Any decision regarding amendments to the existing Guidelines is subject to the outcome of the deliberations with all the stakeholders.

(b): To realise the goals of decarbonisation of Aviation Sector, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) had constituted a Bio-ATF Programme Committee to take forward the Bio-Aviation Turbine Fuel programme in the country to promote use of clean fuels. MoP&NG forwarded the recommendation of the Committee to Ministry of Civil Aviation for comments. This Ministry has advised incremental blending of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) with ATF starting from 2025 with preference for

international flights.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The Government has undertaken the following measures for improvement in civil aviation sector in the country, some of which are as follows:

i. Upgradation/ Modernisation of airports' infrastructure is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Airport Developers from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand/willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports. AAI and other Airport Developers have targeted capital outlay of approximately Rs. 98,000 crore in airport sector in the next five years for expansion and modification of existing terminals, new terminals and strengthening of runways, among other activities.

ii. The DigiYatra initiative aims to provide a contactless, seamless and paperless handling of passengers at airports from the entry gate of the terminal to the boarding point. Project under Digi Yatra has been launched at three airports viz. Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi on 01.12.2022 under Phase-I. Four other airports viz. Hyderabad, Pune, Kolkata and Vijayawada will also be awarded under Phase-I.

iii. Modernisation of air navigation infrastructure has been taken up.

iv. Route rationalization in the Indian airspace is being carried out in coordination with Indian Air Force, using modern air traffic flow management techniques to develop shorter flight routes and lower fuel consumption by airlines.

v. Greater use of digital technology is being encouraged at air cargo terminals to enhance efficiency and to reduce dwell times.

vi. eGovernance has been enabled at Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) for most of their stakeholder interactions and internal processes.

vii. Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. As on 29.11.2022, after four rounds of bidding under UDAN, 453 routes have commenced, operationalizing 70 Airports including 2 Water Aerodrome & 9 Heliports. More than 2.15 lakh UDAN flights have operated and over 1.1 crore passengers have availed the benefits in UDAN flights so far. The scheme has been able to provide air connectivity to Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities at affordable airfares and has transformed the way people travel.

viii. Further, keeping in view India's growing aviation market, technology and skill base, Government has announced new Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Guidelines on 01.09.2021 with a view to create a congenial atmosphere in the country for the development of the MRO industry.

ix. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has brought out a liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) policy wherein the concept of airport royalty

(revenue share payment by FTOs to AAI) has been abolished and land rentals have been significantly rationalised.

x. Ministry of Civil Aviation has released a policy for promotion of helicopter operations across the country. The policy covers various aspects like concessional ground handling charges, parking deposit, landing charges, service charges, credit facility with ATC and training for Air Traffic Control (ATC) with a view to making helicopter operations viable.

As per the policy, State Governments/UTs are required to set up an Institutional mechanism to facilitate helicopter operations by obtaining permissions, approvals, clearances, etc. Ministry of Civil Aviation has also requested the State Governments and UTs to consider setting up helipads in each district for promoting helicopter operations. The Government through this policy, aims to stimulate air traffic and enhance air connectivity through helicopters by facilitating helicopter operations across the country.

xi. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has undertaken the National Mission on Design & Development of Regional Transport Aircraft. Accordingly, Ministry of Civil Aviation has established a Monitoring Committee for implementation of Regional Transport Aircraft project under the Co-Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Last meeting of the Committee was held on 07.11.2022, wherein it has been decided/ agreed that by the time agreement with the prospective technology partners is finalised, domestic and international manufacturing partners shall continue.

xii. Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken up the issues of reduction in Central Excise Duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) with Ministry of Finance and reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on ATF with State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs) on multiple occasions. Based on the request, VAT on ATF has recently been reduced in the range of 1-4% by Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in their respective States/ UTs. Besides, Karnataka has also brought down the VAT on ATF to 18%.

xiii. Under the Wet Lease Agreement, SpiceJet and Indigo airlines have been granted in-principle approval for induction/ operation of nine (09) and six (06) aircraft, respectively.
