

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Lok Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1338
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27th July 2023)
EXPANSION OF AIR TRAVEL

1338. SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the number of air travellers has increased in recent years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the increase rate of air travel in the financial year 2022-2023 over financial year 2021-22;

(c) the details of initiatives taken by the Government to mitigate the impact of increased air travel; and

(d) whether the expansion of air travel under UDAN has any impact on India's goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) & (b): The number of air travellers has increased in recent years. The number of passengers carried by the scheduled Indian carriers for their scheduled domestic operations with effect from the financial year 2018-19 till the financial year 2022-23 (provisional) along with growth rate is at Annexure.

(c): Measures taken by the Government to mitigate the impact of increased air travel include;

- i. development of greenfield airports**
- ii. extension of the runway;**

- iii. resurfacing/ recarpeting of the runway;**
- iv. construction/upgradation of the Terminal Building;**
- v. construction/expansion of apron;**
- vi. construction/expansion of taxiway, isolation bay, parallel taxi track, hangar, parking bay etc.;**
- vii. Upgradation/strengthening of the infrastructure and passenger facilities at the airports ;;**

(d): A number of measures have been taken to achieve the target of carbon neutrality which include;;

- i. use of energy efficient technologies;**
- ii. adopting operational efficiency measures;**
- iii. switching over of airports' operations on 100% Renewable Energy in phased manner. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already installed solar power plants at various airports with cumulative capacity of more than 55 MW . Two thirds of the total electricity requirements of AAI is being met through either in-house solar plants or procurement of renewable energy through open access and under green power tariff. ;**
- iv. AAI has already obtained ACI-ACA (Airport Carbon Accreditation) Level 2 certificates for Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and Varanasi airports. ;**
- v. Airport operators and developers are advised by MoCA to strive for carbon neutrality and net-zero emissions and to adopt carbon mitigation measures and develop carbon management plans. Airports have implemented various practices to reduce their carbon footprint, such as utilizing renewable energy, optimizing operational procedures and schedules and incorporating alternative fuels in ground handling vehicles. Additionally, airports are transitioning to 100 % green energy, with 55 airports, including 49 managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI), currently operating on 100% green energy.;**
- vi. DGCA has issued the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), Section 10 titled 'Aviation Environmental Protection,' Series B, Part I. This requirement outlines the general procedures and practices that stakeholders should follow to minimize aviation emissions and their impact on climate change.**

vii. Airlines have implemented measures to reduce their carbon footprint, such as reducing aircraft weight, preventing moisture and dirt accumulation on aircraft, and optimizing speed and flap management.

viii. AAI, in consultation with the Indian Air Force, has optimized airspace utilization through the Flexible Use of Airspace (FUA) initiative, resulting in a reduction of CO2 emissions.

ix. AAI has introduced initiatives to reduce the use of energy intensive equipment in existing and upcoming airport projects. They have published Energy Intensity Data and created a training module for Air Traffic Controllers to raise awareness about carbon neutrality as part of their induction training program.

Annexure

PASSENGERS HANDLED AT INDIAN AIRPORTS 2015-16 TO 2022-23 (IN MILLION)				
YEAR	INTERNATIONAL	DOMESTIC	TOTAL	% GROWTH
2015-16	54.66	169.29	223.95	-
2016-17	59.29	205.68	264.97	18.3%
2017-18	65.47	243.28	308.75	16.5%
2018-19	69.48	275.22	344.70	11.6%
2019-20	66.54	274.51	341.05	-1.1%
2020-21	10.13	105.25	115.38	-66.2%
2021-22	22.09	166.80	188.89	63.7%
2022-23	56.93	270.34	327.27	73.3%