

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1372
(To be answered on the 27th July 2023)**

UPGRADATION OF KARGIL AIRPORT

1372. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the status of upgradation of the existing airport of Kargil district in Union Territory of Ladakh;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to construct new airports in Kargil District at Wakha, Padum in Zaskar Sub division and other parts of Ladakh;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (d) whether the Government has planned to operate civil flight in Kargil District and Nubra valley of Leh District and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a): 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. Kargil airport is owned by Indian Air Force and has been identified for the development under UDAN scheme. An expenditure of Rs. 0.30 crore has been incurred by 30.06.2023 on the development of Kargil airport out of the total sanctioned budget of Rs. 9.20 crore.

(b) & (c): A multi-disciplinary team from Airports Authority of India, Indian Air Force and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had visited sites at Turtuk (Nubra valley), Diskit (Nubra Tehsil), Nyoma, Padum/Zaskar, Wakha and Kargil in the year 2021 for examining feasibility of these sites for construction of airstrips. However, none of the sites was found suitable for construction of airstrips as none meets the International Civil Aviation Organization provisions or DGCA guidelines for designing of Runway and Instrument Approach & Landing considering normal air operations.

(d): UDAN routes connecting Kargil Airport with Srinagar and Jammu have been awarded to M/s Spicejet Ltd. under UDAN 4.2 round of bidding. The routes Thoise (Nubra) -Srinagar-Thoise and Thoise-Chandigarh-Thoise were awarded to M/s Spicejet Ltd. for operation of UDAN flights during UDAN-4.1 round of bidding. Subsequently, the Selected Airline Operator has surrendered these routes. If any airline submits a valid bid for operation of UDAN flights from Thoise (Nubra), under the forthcoming rounds of bidding, the same shall be considered as per the provisions of Scheme document.
