

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 170
(To be answered on the 14th December 2023)**

EXPANSION OF PUDUCHERRY AIRPORT

***170. SHRI VE. VAITHILINGAM**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the present status of expansion of Puducherry Airport to make larger aircraft operational therefrom;
- (b) the time by which the approval for night landing facility would be extended to Puducherry Airport; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is planning to approve few routes under UDAN-RCS to improve the aircraft operations in Puducherry such as Puducherry-Shirdi, Puducherry-Cochin, Puducherry-Tirupati and if so, the details of such routes thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred (*) Question No.170 for answer on 14.12.2023 regarding 'Expansion of Puducherry Airport':

(a) & (b): The existing airport at Puducherry has a runway length of 1502m which is suitable for operation of 72-Seater Q-400/ATR-72 type of aircraft. The extension of its runway upto 3330m to make it suitable for operation of A-321 type of aircraft under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) conditions with night landing facility is contingent upon handing over of an additional 395 acre of land in Tamil Nadu and 30 acre of land in Puducherry by the respective State Government/Union Territory Administration. As per National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, the land for development of an airport is to be provided by the respective State Government/ Union Territory Administration free of cost and free from any encumbrances to Airports Authority of India.

(c): Spicejet Ltd. launched the "Hyderabad - Puducherry - Hyderabad" route under the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on 16.08.2017, and it continued operations beyond the stipulated 3-year period till date. As the airport's weekly departures exceeded seven, it no longer qualified as an 'underserved' airport. Consequently, it was excluded from UDAN 5.0, which specifically aimed at enhancing connectivity for unserved and underserved airports. Further, Shirdi, Cochin and Tirupati are already designated as served airports and therefore, a pair of served Airports cannot be connected under RCS. In case, any airline bids for connectivity from an unserved or underserved airport to Puducherry Airport, it will be considered within the scope of the UDAN RCS.
