

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 263
(To be answered on the 21st December 2023)**

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT FROM LUCKNOW AIRPORT

***263. SHRI RITESH PANDEY**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether any action plan has been prepared to improve the international air connectivity from Lucknow Airport to ensure direct connectivity to countries such as US, UK etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to expand runways and taxiways in order to accommodate aircrafts for directly connecting Lucknow to countries like the US and UK; and
- (d) if so, the details of tenders issued and progress achieved in land acquisition alongwith the expected timeline for completion of the project?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 263 regarding "International Flights From Lucknow Airport" to be answered on 21.12.2023

(a) & (b): Presently, Lucknow is directly connected to countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Thailand. The international operations of airlines are governed by the bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective country. In order to improve international air connectivity from Lucknow, it has been included in the list of 18 tourists destinations which are available to designated carriers of ASEAN and SAARC countries (except Pakistan & Afghanistan) for unlimited operations. Lucknow is also available as a point of call for designated carriers of USA and UK. However, start of direct international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of scheduled airlines on the basis of passenger demand, availability of slots, economic viability of the route and other associated factors.

(c) & (d): Upgradation/expansion of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Airport Operators 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 has leased out Lucknow airport under Public Private Partnership (PPP) for operation, management and development on long term lease basis. The PPP partner has embarked upon the airport expansion plan which also includes extension of runway and construction of taxiways. However, the timeline for completion of the airport projects depends upon many factors such as land acquisition, availability of mandatory clearances, financial closure etc.
