

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 5038
(To be answered on the 25th March 2021)**

EFFECT OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC ON AVIATION SECTOR

5038. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the aviation sector has been badly affected by COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to revive the sector; and
(b) whether the Government proposes to start new airports across the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) The aviation sector in India has been affected due to restrictions on domestic and international passenger movement in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on information received from stakeholders, the details of the impact are as follows:

- i. The domestic traffic reduced from approximately 10.8 crore during April-December 2019 to approximately 3 crore during April-December 2020.
- ii. The international traffic reduced from approximately 5.21 crore during April-December in 2019 to approximately 55.9 lakhs during April-December 2020.
- iii. The financial loss of Indian carriers during April-December 2020 is approximately INR 16,000 cr
- iv. The financial loss of Indian airports during April-December 2020 is approximately INR 3,000 cr.

The measures undertaken to strengthen the civil aviation sector, include inter-alia:

- i. Domestic air services have been restarted on 25 May 2020 in a calibrated manner. Initially, operations at level of 33% of the summer 2020 schedule were permitted. It has been increased progressively to 45% on 26 June 2020 and currently it is at 80% since 03 Dec 2020.

- ii. Operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) flights allowed without the above-mentioned restrictions.
- iii. As on 15 March 2021, exclusive air-links or Air Bubbles have been established with 27 countries. These are temporary arrangements aimed at restarting international passenger services while regular international flights remain suspended due to COVID-19. In addition, international repatriation flights are being operated on many sectors under Vande Bharat Mission.
- iv. Route rationalization in the Indian airspace in coordination with Indian Air Force for efficient airspace management, shorter routes and lower fuel consumption.
- v. Promotion of private investments in existing and new airports through the PPP route.
- vi. Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate reduced to 5% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services.
- vii. Enabled re-export of leased aircraft in fully or partly knocked-down condition for value realisation of serviceable parts.
- viii. Encouraged Indian carriers to increase their share in international air cargo traffic.
- ix. Adequate care taken to ensure that cargo terminals at airports were operational with due safety, whenever required.
- x. With a view to optimally utilise the infrastructure at AAI airports and enhance the number of licensed pilots in the country, Flying Training Organisations have been offered land at five AAI airports, namely Belagavi, Jalgaon, Kalaburgi, Khajuraho and Lilabari with rationalised concession fee and zero royalty.

(b) Yes, Sir. Govt. of India has accorded 'In-Principle' approval to 21 Greenfield airports across the country, including Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala, Kalaburagi, Bijapur, Hassan and Shimoga in Karnataka, Datia (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Orvakal in Andhra Pradesh and Hollongi, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. Out of these, five airports namely, Shirdi in Maharashtra, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Kalaburagi in Karnataka have been operationalized.

Further, under RCS-UDAN, as on 10 March 2021, 325 routes have commenced operations, connecting 56 unserved/underserved airports including 2 water aerodromes and 5 heliports.
