

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4825  
(To be answered on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022)**

**AIR CONNECTIVITY IN LADAKH**

**4825. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether the Government has conducted field visits or technical survey at Nubra, Nyoma in Changthang, Padum in Zaskar, Wakha and Drass in Kargil for construction of new airports;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has prepared detailed project reports and granted in-principle approval for construction of new airports at the above mentioned locations;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of these projects;**
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to enhance air transportation services within Ladakh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (f) the numbers and locations of helipads and heliports constructed by the Government in Ladakh during the last three years?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

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

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**(a) to (d): A multi-disciplinary team from Airports Authority of India (AAI), 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 (ICAO) provisions or DGCA guidelines for designing of Runway and Instrument Approach & Landing considering normal air operations. However, an expert team from ICAO in collaboration with the officers of AAI has been assigned the task of carrying out the feasibility study for commercial operations at the existing Kargil airport which is under Ministry of Defence (Indian Air Force).**

**(e): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable for the masses. AAI, the Implementing Agency, has identified and awarded one airport in Ladakh namely Thoise, for up-gradation and operation of RCS flights under UDAN. Further, Airports / airstrips situated in Ladakh inter-alia are defined as priority areas**

**(f): Till the completion of four rounds of bidding conducted under UDAN, none of the airline bidders has submitted a proposal to operate a heliport route in Ladakh.**

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