

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4127
(To be answered on the 19th December 2024)**

FLIGHTS FROM SHRAVASTI AIRPORT

4127. SHRI RAM SHIROMANI VERMA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the airport network and air travel facilities to the smallest cities of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to increase the frequency of flights from Shravasti Airport, a world famous Buddhist pilgrimage site, by fixing a minimum fare and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) on 21.10.2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and make air travel affordable to the masses. RCS-UDAN has provided stimulus to the aviation sector in the country by, inter alia, development of airports/heliports/water aerodromes in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

During the last eight years after commencement of the scheme, 615 RCS routes connecting 87 unserved and underserved airports (including 13 heliports & 02 water aerodromes) have been operationalised till date.

(c): Shravasti Airport was selected for the development and operation of RCS flights during the second round of bidding under the UDAN scheme and after the operationalisation of the airport Flybig commenced RCS flights between Shravasti and Lucknow on March 12, 2024.

With the repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation has been deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate subject to the compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs)

issued by the Government and flight schedules approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Hence, it is upto the airline operators to introduce air services to / from any airport in the country depending on their operational & commercial viability. Also, airfares are neither established nor regulated by the Government. Under the provisions of Sub Rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services is required to establish a tariff having regard to all relevant factors including cost of operation, characteristic of services, the generally prevailing tariff etc. The prices are fixed by airlines keeping in view the market demand, seasonality and other market forces.
