

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 71
(To be answered on the 24th July 2025)**

NON-OPERATION OF FLIGHTS

***71. SMT KRISHNA DEVI SHIVSHANKAR PATEL**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the reasons for non-operation of flights from Devangana Airport in Chitrakoot district of Banda Lok Sabha Constituency post the Kumbh event;**
- (b) the time by which the operation of international flights from Devangana Airport is likely to be achieved;**
- (c) the details of the number of domestic flights currently operated or proposed to be operated to connect Chitrakoot with other parts of the country;**
- (d) whether cargo aircrafts are also likely to be operated from the said airport in order to make it commercially viable; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be started?**

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 71 FOR REPLY ON 24.07.2025 REGARDING NON-OPERATION OF FLIGHTS ASKED BY SMT KRISHNA DEVI SHIVSHANKAR PATEL

(a): Chitrakoot Airport was identified for development under the second round of bidding of the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN). The airport has been developed at a cost of Rs.32.79 crore and is licensed for 2B-VFR operations. Under the UDAN scheme, RCS flight operations between Chitrakoot and Lucknow commenced on 12th March 2024, operated by Flybig Airlines. However, the service was discontinued on 15th December 2024 due to two key operational challenges: poor visibility conditions and the daytime closure of Lucknow Airport for runway re-carpeting work. The resumption of operations is subject to the completion of the ongoing re-carpeting work at Lucknow Airport.

(b): Chitrakoot Airport is a domestic airport catering to small aircraft (19 seater or less) operations. Presently, there is no proposal for commencing international operations from this airport.

(c): RCS routes connecting Chitrakoot to Prayagraj, Varanasi, Kanpur and Khajuraho have been awarded to Flybig Airline under the RCS-UDAN Scheme.

(d) & (e): At present there is no cargo terminal at Chitrakoot Airport and no demand has been received from domestic airlines for the same. With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation was totally deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service, slots allocated by the respective airport operators and further approval of schedule from the DGCA. Hence, it is up to the airline operator to consider the introduction or continuation of cargo services to/ from any airport in the country, depending on their operational and commercial viability.
