

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2018
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th December 2025)

FLIGHT SERVICES BETWEEN SALEM-CHENNAI AND MADURAI

2018. SHRI K E PRAKASH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the reasons for the continued absence of additional scheduled flight services between Salem-Chennai and Salem-Madurai despite the request of the State Government of Tamil Nadu and recorded data showing a sharp rise in passenger demand;
- (b) the time by which the Union Government would approve and operationalise the required additional services to ensure adequate regional connectivity for Salem district;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Vellore RCS Airport infrastructure is fully completed, the requisite land was handed over to the Airports Authority of India long ago and State-trained security and fire personnel are ready for deployment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the inordinate delay in commencement of flight operations along with the specific clearances or processes pending at the Union Government level and the exact timeline for commencement of commercial operations at Vellore?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): As per the ongoing Winter Schedule, effective till 28.03.2026, M/s IndiGo has proposed operating a daily flight between Salem and Chennai. However, for the Salem-Madurai route, no such proposal has been received. With the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation was fully deregulated, and the commencement or operation of flights between any two cities is now purely a commercial decision of the airlines, based on the economic and operational viability of the route and other relevant factors.

(b): Under the UDAN 5.0 round of bidding, RCS routes connecting Salem Airport with Bengaluru and Cochin were awarded to M/s Alliance Air, and RCS routes connecting Salem with Bengaluru and Hyderabad were awarded to M/s IndiGo. The airlines have since commenced operations on these routes.;

(c) & (d): Vellore Airport in Tamil Nadu, owned by the Airport Authority of India (AAI), and identified under UDAN scheme for development is currently in the licencing process. Operations can commence once the security and licensing approvals are in place.
