

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3196

(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th December 2025)

OPERATIONALISATION OF PUDUCHERRY AIRPORT

3196. SHRI VE VAITHILINGAM

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has examined the challenges arising from inadequate runway length, limited apron capacity, absence of night-landing approval and restricted regional connectivity that continue to constrain full operationalisation of Puducherry Airport and hinder passenger-traffic growth in the Union Territory of Puducherry and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for addressing land-availability constraints, strengthening safety infrastructure, improving terminal facilities, enhancing air-navigation systems and securing long-term schedules under regional connectivity schemes for Puducherry; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure sustainable expansion of civil aviation services in Puducherry including improved coordination with the territorial administration, transparent monitoring of airline commitments and targeted support for increased tourism and economic activity?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): Airports Authority of India (AAI) has submitted the Master Plan and Obstacle Limitation Survey (OLS) report to the Government of Puducherry. As per the Master Plan, which aims to facilitate operations of A-320 type aircraft under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) including a proposal for an expanded runway of 2300 m x 45 m, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has projected a total additional land requirement of 402 acres - comprising 217 acres in Tamil Nadu and 185 acres in Puducherry. As per provisions of the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, the responsibility for providing land required for development of airports, free of cost and free from all encumbrances, rests with the respective State Government/Union Territory Administration.

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(c): Under the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), Spicejet Ltd. commenced the operations on "Hyderabad- Puducherry - Hyderabad" route on 16.08.2017, and continued operations till 30.03.2024. At present, IndiGo is operating commercial flights on the Puducherry-Hyderabad-Puducherry Sector.;

Also, with the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation has been fully deregulated. Airlines are free to select markets and routes, induct any aircraft type, and operate in compliance with the Routes Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the government. Therefore, the decision to introduce air services to or from any airport depends on the airline operator's operational and commercial viability.
