

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 17

(To be answered on the 29th January 2026)

OPERATIONALISATION OF AIRPORTS

*17. DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA SHRI
KHAGEN MURMU

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION **नागर विमानन मंत्री** be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the Navi Mumbai International Airport inaugurated in October 2025 with regard to its passenger and cargo carrying capacity, key facilities and the expected impact on regional aviation connectivity; (b) the number of greenfield airports currently under development in the country along with the expected timelines set for their operationalisation; (c) the details of the greenfield airport proposed to be developed in Palghar district of Maharashtra and the progress made therein so far;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure sustainable aviation practices at newly developed airports including integration of solar power capacity and development of Sustainable Aviation Fuel infrastructure; (e) the details of employment generation and economic benefits anticipated from these airport projects; and
- (f) whether the Government is considering to start regular flights from Manpur airstrip in Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 17* FOR REPLY ON 29.01.2026 REGARDING "OPERATIONALISATION OF AIRPORTS" ASKED BY DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA AND SHRI KHAGEN MURMU

(a): Navi Mumbai International Greenfield Airport airport is spread over an area of 1160 hectares, having passenger terminal building of 2,34,797 sqm and 3700 meter long runway along with other utilities and infrastructure. The airport has capacity to handle 20 million passengers annually (MPPA) and 0.8 Million Metric Tons of cargo per annum. The airport has started flight operations to 13 domestic destinations, as on 21.01.2026.

(b) & (c): Under Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008, Government of India (GoI) has accorded "In-Principle" approval for setting up of 24 Greenfield Airports across the country. Out of these, 13 Greenfield airports have been operationalised. As per GFA Policy, the responsibility for implementation of the Greenfield airport project lies with the Project Proponent. Also, the timeline for completion of the airport projects depends upon several factors such as land acquisition, availability of mandatory clearances including environmental clearances, financial closure etc.

Proposal seeking 'Site Clearance' as per GFA Policy has not been received from any airport developer or State Government concerned for development of a Greenfield Airport in Palghar district of Maharashtra.

(d): Airport operators with scheduled operations have been advised to map the carbon emission at their respective airports and to work towards carbon neutrality & net zero emission in a phased manner. Airports are participating in Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme of Airports Council International (ACI), which is a voluntary global carbon management standard for airports.

Renewable Energy (RE) sources help in reducing Carbon emissions at airports, thereby helping in achieving carbon neutrality. The airport operators including Airports Authority of India (AAI) have installed solar power plants for generation and self-consumption of green and renewable energy to encourage green energy usage at the airports. In addition, few airports are also procuring green energy through open access.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) has informed that Public Sector Oil companies are engaged in setting up pilot/commercial scale facilities to produce Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) including standalone as well as co-processing plants. The Government has approved indicative blending targets of 1% by 2027,

2% by 2028, and 5% by 2030 for SAF in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), initially for international flights.

(e): Airports have emerged as a nucleus of economic activities and have multiplier effect on the economy of the State. Development of airports leads to increase in passenger movements, tourism development, employment generation and augmentation in circle rates of land valuation leading to enhanced collection of various taxes/stamp duties etc., in the respective State and in the overall development of the Country. International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) study shows that the air connectivity has an economic multiplier of 3.25 and employment multiplier of 6.1.

(f): Under the RCS-UDAN Scheme, unserved and underserved airstrips are identified for development and operationalisation through a demand based bidding mechanism.

The Abu Road (Manpur) airstrip in Rajasthan is included in the tentative list of unserved airports in the UDAN document for bidding. If any airline submits a valid bid for connecting Manpur (Abu Road) airstrip in forthcoming rounds of bidding, the same shall be considered in accordance with the provisions of the UDAN scheme.
