

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4390
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026)

CHALLENGES BEFORE CIVIL AVIATION SECTOR

4390. DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the challenges being faced in the civil aviation sector, particularly with regard to high airfares, lack of adequate air connectivity in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, delays in airport infrastructure development, financial stress being faced by airlines and issues related to passenger safety and convenience;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government to promote affordable and accessible air travel, improve regional connectivity, expedite infrastructure development, ensure financial health of airlines, enhance safety standards and improve passenger services across the country through various schemes and policy initiatives; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Airfares are not subject to regulation by the Government and every air transport undertaking shall establish a tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including the cost of operation, characteristics of service, reasonable profit, while adhering to Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

The government is taking proactive steps to make air travel more affordable, such as, enactment of the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Act, 2025 to lower interest rates and lease rentals, rationalization of Central Excise Duty & GST on Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) components and contracts, and reduction of high VAT on ATF by requesting States/UTs, providing affordable air connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country

(tier-2 and tier-3 cities) through Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN).

Under the RCS-UDAN, as on 28.02.2026, 663 RCS routes connecting 95 unserved and underserved airports (including 17 heliports and 02 water aerodromes) have been developed and operationalised across the country carrying over 160 lakhs domestic passengers on more than 3.36 lakh RCS flights.

In order to ensure appropriate protection for the air travellers and to safeguard the interests of the travelling public, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) related to carriage by air of persons with disability and/ or persons with reduced mobility, refund of airline tickets to passengers of public transport undertakings, facilitation in case of flight diversion and facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights, delays in flights.
