

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4473

(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026)

EXPANSION OF AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

4473. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has formulated any time-bound roadmap for achieving the target of 350-400 operational airports by 2047 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the current status of land acquisition, Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formation and investment mobilisation in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is presently facing a severe manpower shortage with the vacancies of nearly fifty per cent of sanctioned safety and technical posts and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the recruitment process and modernise surveillance systems across the DGCA, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) to ensure compliance with international aviation safety standards; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to institute real-time risk assessment mechanisms during the ongoing airport expansion phase to prevent operational and passenger safety lapses and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): In pursuance to the objectives of Viksit Bharat 2047, airport development and expansion are being undertaken through greenfield airports under the Greenfield Airports Policy, revival of unserved/underserved airports under RCS-UDAN, upgradation of existing airports by AAI, and promotion of private investment through PPP. 25 Greenfield airports have received in-principle approval, 13 are operational, and 6 have site clearance. Under RCS-UDAN, 663 routes connecting 95 aerodromes have been operationalised. The modified UDAN aims to connect 120 new destinations and serve 4 crore passengers in 10 years.

(b): Airport development, including land acquisition and investment mobilisation, is undertaken by the respective airport developers, including State Governments and private entities.

(c) & (d): In DGCA, 538 posts are vacant out of 1063 sanctioned posts, including 426 technical posts created during restructuring (2022 to 24). Recruitment is underway and offers have been issued to 106 candidates. AAI has expedited recruitment and redeployed staff at operationally sensitive airports. BCAS fills posts through deputation with periodic vacancy circulars.

(e): Aerodrome operators conduct Safety Assessments under the Safety Management System (SMS) during airport infrastructure projects. DGCA reviews these assessments and conducts inspections to ensure safety of aircraft operations during expansion works.
