

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3421  
(To be answered on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015)**

**REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY**

**3421. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR  
SHRI G. HARI**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether the Government has asked the State Governments to improve regional air connectivity by providing financial support to smaller carriers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the State Governments thereto and the other steps being taken to improve regional connectivity;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to underwrite some seats in flights to remote areas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is likely to propose 1 per cent cess on fares to fund air connectivity in non-lucrative regional routes and if so, the details and the present status thereof?

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

**(Dr Mahesh Sharma)**

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(a) to (d) - A meeting of the State Civil Aviation Ministers was held on 30.11.2014 in New Delhi, wherein State Governments were inter-alia requested to reduce VAT on ATF and to provide facilities for aviation activities in their respective States in the form of development of road connectivity to airports, exemption / reduction in the applicable State taxes, extension of services of State police and fire department etc to reduce the cost of operations at the airports and underwriting of certain numbers of seats to provide viability for airline operations as part of many options to facilitate remote and regional connectivity. These were also reiterated in the subsequent meetings held in the Ministry with officials of State Governments.

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