

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2023 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2014

Air connectivity in the country

2023. SHRI N.K. SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has chalked out any long term plan to connect small towns, remote and interior areas of the country with air services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has initiated any process to identify such small towns, remote and interior areas in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b): With a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need of air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East (NE) region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshdweep, the Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG). In addition, to promote air connectivity within a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and Tier III (small cities) cities and between specific regions, Government has introduced a separate category of Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services in 2007. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements for Scheduled regional air transport service.

(c) & (d): In accordance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines, all Scheduled Airlines who operate on Category-I (Metro) routes are required to deploy 10% of the capacity deployed on Category-I routes, on Category- II routes. Category-II routes are those connecting stations in North-East (NE) region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshdweep. The operators are also required to deploy at least 50% in Category III (small cities) of the capacity they deploy in Category I route.