MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2495 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.02.2014
Policy for regional air connectivity
2495. SHRI N.K. SINGH

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

(a) whether Government proposes to unveil a new policy to encourage airlines to
fly to smaller cities and make regional air connectivity viable;
(b) if so, the details of new smaller cities likely to be connected by airlines;
(c) whether the existing route dispersal guidelines which makes mandatory for
airlines to fly to North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman and
Nicobar Islands had many loopholes; and
(d) if so, the manner in which Government is going to plug those loopholes and to
acquire smaller planes for smaller cities?
Answer
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) to (b):- With a view 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. 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 accordance with these RDG, 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 region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The operator are also required to deploy at least 50% in Category III (small cities) of the capacity deployed in Category I route.
(c): No Sir.
(d): Does not arise.