

Seventeenth Loksabha

>

Title: Regarding starting of a direct flight on a daily basis between Mumbai and Shirdi under the UDAAN Scheme-laid.

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): The town of Shirdi is located in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra and is home to Shri Sai Baba, one of India's most revered saints. The temple witnesses huge footfalls and is thronged by lakhs of devotees each year, irrespective of religion, caste and creed. Despite being one of the most prominent religious centres, the issue of connectivity due to absence of a direct flight from Mumbai is hampering the tourism potential in Shirdi. Currently, a passenger has to board a connecting flight via Hyderabad or New Delhi which takes somewhere between 5-10 hours even though the distance by road from Mumbai to Shirdi is 250 km. I request the Government to start a direct flight on a daily basis between Mumbai and Shirdi under the UDAN Scheme in order to promote tourism through proper connectivity and provide relief to the large number of national and international devotees who visit Shirdi.