

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2963
(To be answered on the 12th December 2024)**

AIR CONNECTIVITY FROM GONDIA AIRPORT

2963. DR. PRASHANT YADAORAO PADOLE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the initiatives taken/being taken by the Government for extending the air connectivity from Gondia (Birsi) airport to Mumbai, Pune and other major cities;
- (b) the details of infrastructural development completed at Gondia (Birsi) airport recently;
- (c) the reasons for lack of Night Landing Facilities at Gondia airport along with the manner in which the Ministry proposes to address the said issue;
- (d) the impact on airport operation due to the absence of Instrument Landing System (ILS); and
- (e) the measures proposed to improve airport services and feasibility tools at the said airport?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Gondia airport is included in the Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN. Flybig commenced the routes connecting Gondia to Indore and Hyderabad on 13.03.2022, however, these operations ceased on 09.08.2022. The Gondia-Indore-Gondia route was subsequently offered for bidding under UDAN 5.3, but no bids were received connecting Gondia Airport.

With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation has been fully deregulated. Airlines are free to induct any aircraft type and to select markets and routes. The decision to introduce air services to/from any airport is taken by the airlines depending upon their operational and commercial viability and policy of the airlines. At present, Indigo is operating commercial flights between Gondia and Hyderabad.

(b): At Gondia Airport, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has recently completed the commissioning of the extended portion of the runway,

installation of a new Instrument Landing System (ILS), and the establishment of an Approach Control Unit to facilitate Special Visual Flight Rules (VFR) and Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations.

(c) & (d): ILS is a precision approach, which provides a 3D guidance (vertical guidance along with lateral guidance) that enhances operational safety during low visibility. ILS installation at Gondia Airport has been completed and AAI has initiated its commissioning process.

(e): The expansion and development of infrastructure at airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Airport Operators from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand and willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports. In order to optimize airport services at Gondia Airport, AAI has requested the State Government of Maharashtra for diversion of Khatia-Kamath road and Parswada-Jhimil road, as both currently pass through the airport area.
