

Title : Reduction in flight frequencies of Indian Airlines to Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue relating to our State. The Indian Airlines has drastically cut down its operations to Bhubaneswar, Orissa, which has been perpetually subjected to unimaginative and atrocious treatment on flight connectivity of the civil aviation authority [\[KMR22\]](#).

This has enormously affected the development process of the State. International tourists arriving at Kolkata and Chennai are not getting easy accessibility to Orissa because of reduction of frequency of flights. Even for Hyderabad also the frequency of flights has been curtailed.

Now, frequency of flights from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar has been reduced from five days a week to three days a week. The easiest air traffic route Kolkata –Bhubaneswar sector is being virtually blocked by the Civil Aviation Authorities, which stand as a major obstacle today for the investors, corporate travellers as well as tourists.

Secondly, the Indian Airlines was the only lifeline connection to South India on its Bhubaneswar-Chennai route sector. But the frequency has been reduced to two days a week though the demand was to make it seven days a week.

There was a demand to provide air connectivity to Bangalore also, but it has not been done till now. The Civil Aviation Authorities have also blindly reduced the frequency of flights to only once a week between Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad. When tourism is booming, when Orissa has become the investment destination of the country, why is that the Civil Aviation Authorities are reducing their flight from Bhubaneswar?

Sir, I allege that this reduction of frequency of flights is a design to deny Orissa its due. I demand to restore full frequency of flights to Bhubaneswar from Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai.

Sir, for the last so many years we have been demanding to have a flight from Bhubaneswar to Bangalore. It is long overdue. Similarly, we have been asking for second flight from New Delhi to Bhubaneswar *via* Varanasi. Connecting Bhubaneswar with Gaya is also another demand, which is not being met. There is a need to increase the frequency of flights from major metros to Bhubaneswar. But my main apprehension is that a deliberate attempt is being made to scuttle the development process and industrialisation that are taking Place in Orissa, by reducing the frequency of the air connectivity.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to reconsider it and increase the air connectivity to Bhubaneswar.