

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 36
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July 2026
HIGH CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS AT AIRPORTS

36. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

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

- (a) whether Government will assess or has assessed infrastructure capacity constraints at domestic airports to cater to international flights, and the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government will revise or has revised the User Development Fee to fund airport capacity and expansion to cater to international air traffic, and the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): The operation of international flights depends upon the availability of adequate runway, apron and terminal infrastructure, besides Customs, Immigration, Health and Animal & Plant Quarantine services. Accordingly, the expansion and development of airport infrastructure, including capacity augmentation, is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or other airport operators from time to time based on passenger traffic projections, demand from airlines, operational requirements, availability of land and financial viability.

(b): Under the regulatory model adopted by Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), the Airport Operator is allowed the cost of running the airport plus a reasonable return on investments made in the airport for capacity expansion and for modernization/upgradation of airport infrastructure to cater to growing air traffic including international traffic.

UDF is one of the components of airport tariff for recovery of the approved Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) and is not the sole source of funding for airport expansion. Accordingly, UDF is revised by AERA, wherever required, based on the ARR determined for the respective airport for the relevant control period.
