

# Nine more airports in UP in 2 years: Scindia

**New Delhi:** Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday announced that nine more airports would be constructed in Uttar Pradesh over the next two years. Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Scindia said Modi government is giving a huge importance to the civil aviation sector.

He said that only 74 airports were constructed in the

first 65 years of independence, while 75 airports have been developed in the nine years of the Modi government, taking the total number to 149. The total include airports, heliports and waterdromes. The civil aviation minister said that only three greenfield airports were constructed in 65 years, while 12 greenfield airports have been developed by the current government since 2014.

Scindia said that six air-

ports were developed in Uttar Pradesh in 65 years.

The minister said three more airports have been constructed in the state in the last nine years. "We will construct nine more airports in the next two years in Uttar Pradesh," said Scindia, adding that the total number would reach 18.

About Meerut airport, the minister said operations with ATR aircraft using VFR (Visual Flight Rating) can be started

once the state government provides an additional 115 acres of land. "Meerut is an unlicensed airport and was identified during the third round of bidding under the UDAN scheme for development and to operate RCS flights," Scindia said in a written reply.

"Only after the airport is ready and licensed, the Selected Airlines Operator can start operating RCS flights from the Meerut airport," he added. २१