

Expansion of apron for 2 additional parking bays - ₹ 6.42 crores

Construction of airside corridor with fixed aero-link corridor for isolation of 2 additional aerobridges for the integrated passenger terminal building - ₹ 2.63 crores

(iii) Tuticorin Airport:

Resurfacing of existing runway, taxiway and strengthening of apron - ₹ 4.80 crores

(c) Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 envisages enhancement of air connectivity to various destinations in the country. The airlines are free to operate anywhere within the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines. However, the airlines have to take into account the traffic demand and commercial viability for mounting a service.

#### **Refusal by airlines to join regional connectivity scheme**

†882. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the airlines are not agreeing to provide services under the scheme with a cap of ₹ 2500 on airfare for an hour-long flight;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether services under this scheme will be provided only by the Government owned airline, Air India; and

(c) if not, the airlines which are ready to provide the new services under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) In compliance with the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016, Ministry of Civil Aviation has released Draft Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on 01.07.2016 for inviting suggestions/feedback of the stakeholders.

#### **Heliports in the country**

883. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heliports operating in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of heliports which are planned to be established in next two years, State-wise;

(c) whether these heli flights are economically viable for passengers as compared to normal air fare; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.