

- (b) whether the airline has started ticket booking for the said flight; and
 (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Air India is examining the modalities of implementing this flight.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

New domestic flights to and from Amritsar

2097. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to start new domestic flights to and from Amritsar in view of the fact that Amritsar City is a tourist place and people from all walks of life come to visit Golden Temple, Durgiana Temple, Wagah Border, Ram Tirath and other historical places; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per Winter Schedule 2016, following scheduled domestic flights are operating to/from Amritsar:-

Airlines	Route	Frequency
Air India	Delhi-Amritsar	28
	& VV	
Jet Airways	Delhi-Amritsar	21
	& VV	
SpiceJet	Delhi-Amritsar	07
	& VV	
	Mumbai-Amritsar-Srinagar	
	& VV	07

With repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian aviation was totally deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate depending on their commercial viability. However, GoI has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account

the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of RDG issued by the Government.

MoU signed under RCS-UDAN Scheme

2098. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has signed any MoU with the Ministry for the implementation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN) to develop airports and to provide affordable air travel to common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of assistance provided so far by the Ministry to the Government of Maharashtra for the proper implementation of RCS-UDAN scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Government of Maharashtra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority of India (AAI) to provide various concessions envisioned in the scheme. The primary objective of RCS is to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. Promoting affordability of Regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS by supporting airline operators through (i) concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes and (ii) financial support (viability gap funding or VGF) to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such routes. VGF will be shared between Ministry of Civil Aviation and the State Government in the ratio of 80:20 whereas for the States in North Eastern Region/UTs, the ratio will be 90:10.

Flight service from Bhagalpur

†2099. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to start flight service from Bhagalpur in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.