

Air services from airstrips in Uttarakhand

†1616. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no other airstrip in Uttarakhand besides Dehradun and Pantnagar, wherefrom smaller aircrafts can be operated;

(b) if not, the details of difficulties being faced in operation of aeroplanes from these airstrips;

(c) whether private planes are being operated from these airstrips; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which Government is not starting operation of aeroplanes from these airstrips?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) There are three small airstrips belonging to State Government of Uttarakhand namely Pithoragarh, Chinyalisaur and Gauchar for operating of smaller aircraft.

(b) to (d) Starting of flights from unserved and underserved airports belonging to State Government, Defence or Private under RCS-UDAN depends on firm demand from airline operators who bid for lowest Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for operating flights at these airports. Further, flight operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the Government. It is upto the airline operators to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. However, Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme [Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)] in October, 2016 with the objective to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity to currently underserved and unserved airports.

Funds for development of airports

1617. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airports need ₹2.4 lakh crore in ten years to meet demand;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.