

crore. However, NITI Aayog in its recommendations, on Strategic Disinvestment of the Central Public Sector Enterprises on May 12, 2017 had given the rationale for the disinvestment of Air India and has referred to the fragile finances of the company, among various other reasons. Air India has been incurring continuous losses and has huge accumulated losses. Further, NITI Aayog in its report on Air India has stated that further financial support in a mature and competitive aviation market would not be the best use of scarce financial resources of the Government.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in its meeting held on 28.06.2017, has given in principle approval for considering strategic disinvestment of Air India and its five subsidiaries and constitution of Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) to guide the process of strategic disinvestment from time to time.

**Air services from Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Purnia and other cities of Bihar**

†1937. SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to operate air traffic from several places of the country for the convenience of common man;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is contemplating to commence air traffic from Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Purnia and other cities of Bihar in the next two or three months, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme on 21-10-2016 for providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country. The primary objective of RCS is to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. RCS-UDAN is a demand-driven scheme, where airline operators undertake assessment of demand on particular routes and bid under RCS-UDAN on time to time.

In second round of bidding of the RCS - UDAN, Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency has issued Letter of Award to Selected Airline Operator to operate RCS flights to / from Darbhanga RCS airports of Bihar on the Network / Routes as under:

- (i) Mumbai-Darbhanga-Mumbai.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) Delhi-Darbhanga-Delhi.
- (iii) Bengaluru-Darbhanga-Bengaluru.

As per the provisions of the RCS-UDAN, the selected airline operators are to commence RCS flights within 180 days from the date of issue of Letter of Award, provided other conditions laid down in the Scheme documents are adhered to by Airport Operators and State Governments.

#### **Status of Jewar International Airport in U.P.**

1938. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the progress of setting up of Jewar International Airport project;
- (b) whether Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has deposited the requisite amount required to initiate the process of acquiring land for the project;
- (c) whether State Government of Uttar Pradesh has offered or identified the land for acquisition, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what is the total cost and time schedule for completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted 'site clearance' approval to the proposal of Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP) for construction of Noida International Greenfield Airport near Jewar, Uttar Pradesh on 6th July, 2017. The proposed airport is being developed by State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has been appointed as the implementing agency by GoUP.

(c) A total of 3000 ha of land area for the proposed airport is apart of notified area of YEIDA and the Authority has reserved the land for proposed Airport in its Master Plan as per GoUP.

(d) The exact cost of the project comes in the second stage of approval *i.e.* 'in principle'. GoUP is required to submit the application along with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for grant of 'in principle' approval. The timeline for construction of airport depends upon many factors such as land acquisition, availability of mandatory clearances, PPP bidding process, construction schedule, financial closure etc.