(iv) Above fare details of SAO are checked by conducting audit by an independent auditor

Expansion of runway of Mysore airport

2251. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received request from the State Government of Karnataka for expansion of runway of Mysore airport and for bearing the entire cost including the land acquisition by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has considered and approved the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Additional Chief Secretary to the State Government of Karnataka *vide* letter dated 14.11.2018 has requested Government of lndia to bear the entire cost of expansion of Mysore airport under its scheme of expansion/improvements of RCS airports. In this regard, this Ministry *vide* letter dated 19.11.2018 has clarified to the State Government that RCS funds cannot be utilized to meet the cost of land acquisition. Further, in general, land for the development/ expansion works at airports, is acquired by the State Government and handed over to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

Arbitrary cancellation of flights by airlines

2252. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has collected data regarding the problems faced by passengers due to arbitrary cancellation of flights by the airlines;

(b) if so, the action plan formulated by Government to address the problems faced by travellers along with the the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering ways to reduce cancellation of flights by the airlines; and

(d) if so, the details of the strategy formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The details regarding number of passenger affected and amount of compensation paid due to cancellation of flights as submitted by the airlines as a part of monthly submission of traffic data for the period of January 2018 to November, 2018 are given below:–

No. of Passengers affected	Compensation (in lakhs)
259753	536.67

(b) to (d) In order to reduce inconvenience caused to the passengers as a result of the cancellations of the flights on which they are booked for travel, under the provision of the prevailing regulation, airline shall inform the passengers of the cancellation at least two weeks before the scheduled time of departure and arrange alternate flight/refund as acceptable to the passenger. Aggrieved passengers are free to take up their grievance with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and at Air Sewa, which are taken up with the concerned airlines for redressal in a time bound manner.

In order to facilitate the passengers in case of cancellation, delay and denied boarding, DGCA has issued a Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), Section-3 Air Transport, Series M, Part IV titled as "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights".

Expansion of air connectivity

†2253. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of air connectivity programme for connecting cities with air services in the country during the past three years; and

(b) the details of the action plan for further time-bound air connectivity along with the details of targeted cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The Government of India launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme to provide affordable air connectivity between cities in the country.

56 unserved airports have been identified under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik). Out of these 21 unserved airports have

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.