

(b) whether any policy has been formulated under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN in relation to providing passenger air services at low cost by private aviation companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), 85 RCS Airports including 6 waterdromes have been awarded. 23 Unserved airports and 15 Underserved airports have been operationalised under RCS-UDAN version 1 and 2. RCS version 3 has been recently awarded.

(b) and (c) Government of India has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme RCS-UDAN for stimulating regional connectivity by making flying accessible and affordable for the masses. Under the RCS Scheme, a Selected Airline Operator (SAO) is required to provide fifty percent (50%) of RCS flight Capacity as RCS Seats:

- (i) provided that where fifty percent (50 %) of RCS Flight Capacity exceeds forty (40) passenger seats, the RCS Seats shall be capped at forty(40) passenger seats;
- (ii) provided further that where fifty percent (50%) of RCS Flight Capacity is less than nine (9) passenger seats, the minimum number of RCS Seats shall not be less than (9);
- (iii) SAO can sell the balance fifty percent (50%) passenger seats at market value.

Policy for flying drones

298. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has pushed back the date to April, 2019 for individuals and companies who can fly drones;

(b) how long would it take the national Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) portal to implement a No Permission, No Takeoff (NPNT) policy before the drones can fly; and

(c) how Government plans to integrate the UTM with defence and civilian Air Traffic Controls (ATCs) to ensure that drones remain on the approved flight paths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Flying permissions will be given through DigitalSky platform subsequent to the Zone data being mapped in the system by Ministry of Home Affairs. Drones weighing less than 250 gm can be used freely now, except in red zones.

(b) and (c) No Permission, No Takeoff (NPNT) policy has been laid down by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in its CAR SECTION 3 ? AIR TRANSPORT SERIES X PART I issued on 27.08.2018 regarding "Requirements for Operation of Civil Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)". The drone manufacturers are required to comply with the provisions of the NPNT policy. The drone operators shall have to obtain their flight paths approved on the DigitalSky portal before the actual flight.

Inclusion of mudh air field under the UDAN scheme

299. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to stated:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), Leh has apprised the Ministry for the dire need to act on the long pending demand of subsidized tariff, capping of the airfare or framing flat flight rate for the Ladakhi people and Government employees working in the Ladakh region;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CEC Leh requested the Minister for inclusion of Mudh Air Field in eastern Ladakh under the UDAN scheme; and

(c) whether Government is planning to include Thoise Nubra under UDAN scheme and also opening of Thoise Nubra for scheduled commercial airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) A letter dated March, 2018 addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister from Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh raising certain issues and demands of Leh District including airfare was received. The ibid letter dated March, 2018 did not mention inclusion of Mudh Air Field in eastern Ladakh under UDAN.

(c) Thoise is listed as underserved airport under FLCS-UDAN version 3. However, no bid connecting Thoise has been received under UDAN version 1, 2 & 3.

New embarkation point at Gannavaram airport for Haj Pilgrims

300. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request letter/recommendation letter from the State of Andhra Pradesh requesting for conveying Civil Aviation Ministry's