

(e) whether the International Civil Aviation Organisation had asked Government to make AAIB fully independent; and

(f) whether the investigators still draw their salaries from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and hold their identity as employees of the DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The sanctioned strength of AAIB is 21 - 17 technical officers and 04 non-technical officers.

(b) No, Sir. Out of 17 technical posts 11 posts are filled at present.

(c) and (d) The requisite training to the investigators is imparted as per the present training policy / calendar of AAIB.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 07 technical officers of AAIB draw their salaries from DGCA.

**Including more tier 2 cities in UDAN scheme**

306. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to include more tier 2 cities under the UDAN scheme in near future;

(b) if so, the details of cities thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the action taken and time frame to complete such proposal, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (d) Government has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) -UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. RCS-UDAN is market driven mechanism. Development of regional air connectivity routes is left to market forces such that airlines undertake assessment of demand and nature of supply required on particular routes and lead the process under RCS. Under RCS-UDAN 1,2,&3 routes connecting 85 RCS airports including 6 waterdromes have been awarded.