

(b) whether it is also a fact that UDAN-3 is also going to connect to international destinations; and

(c) if so, the details of (a) and (b) above, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) version 3.0, 46 Tourism routes have been awarded on request of Ministry of Tourism.

(b) and (c) With reference to Andhra Pradesh, tourism route of Rajamundry - Vishakhapatnam and *vice-versa* have been awarded under RCS - UDAN version 3.0 and routes connecting Kadapa airport to Chennai, Hyderabad and Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh have been awarded under RCS- UDAN version 1. Under UDAN(International) Guwahati-Bangkok and Guwahati-Dhaka proposal are awarded.

Operation of airports in Darbhanga, Purnea and Bhagalpur

312. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new airports have been announced for Bihar and work in Darbhanga, Purnea and Bhagalpur has commenced in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the air operation will commence from Darbhanga and other places within the stipulated time-frame and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No new Greenfield Airport has been announced for the State of Bihar. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken steps to develop existing airstrips/ airports at Darbhanga and Purnea. Darbhanga and Purnea airports belong to Indian Air Force (IAF) and AAI has awarded works for runway, taxiway, interim terminal building and allied works at Darghanga Airport under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). Further, for the development of Purnea Airport, AAI has projected a requirement of 50 acres of land to the State Government of Bihar. Bhagalpur airport belongs to State Government of Bihar and so far no airlines have expressed their interest to operate from the airport under RCS -UDAN, as such the Government has no plan to develop the airport.

(c) 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. Spicejet has expressed interests to operate from Darbhanga Airport under RCS-UDAN.

New incentives to exporters

313. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently announced new incentives for the exporters of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what new additions have been made in the incentives and how the exporters will be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Government introduced a new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 on 1st April, 2015 to facilitate and promote exports from the country. The policy provides many measures including the following key schemes:

- (i) Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS)
- (ii) Service Export Incentive Scheme (SEIS)
- (iii) Advance Authorization Scheme (For Duty free import of Raw material)
- (iv) Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG)

The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and Service Exports from India (SEIS) have been introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 with the objective to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in exporting goods/ products which are produced/ manufactured in India. At present, the MEIS Scheme incentivizes exporters in terms of Duty Credit Scrips at the rate 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 10% of realized FOB value of exports. These scrips are transferable and can be used to pay certain Central Duties/taxes including customs duties, but not IGST/CGST/SGST. At present, the scheme covers more than 8000 tariff lines at 8 digits level.