

(RCS) –UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik). Flight operation on Chennai-Salem sector has been commenced already. Commencement of flight operation at other airports depends upon the readiness of the civil airports/heliports, which may be related to availability of land, creating regional infrastructure, obtaining license from the Regulator etc. and obtaining Scheduled Commuter Operators Permit by new entrants Airlines.

(c) RCS –UDAN is demand driven and development of regional air connectivity routes depends on the market forces wherein airlines undertake assessment of demand and supply required on a particular route and participate in the bidding held from time to time.

#### **Replacement of Air India flight routes**

1268. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is operating routes with flights which are very old and needed replacement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India has carried out the fitness of all flights which they are operating on a regular basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The average age of the aircraft operated by Air India Group is 7.0 years which is as per industry standards.

(c) and (d) Air India follows a preventive maintenance programme formulated in consultation with the aircraft manufacturer and approved by the DGCA. This maintenance programme comprises of various checks such as pre-flight check, weekly check, monthly check and other higher periodicity checks. Based upon the compliance of the approved maintenance programme, DGCA issues/validates the Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) of the aircraft which is an essential document to operate any flight.

#### **Facilities for international air cargo operations at Visakhapatnam**

1269. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when international air cargo operations began at Visakhapatnam International Airport;