

Passighat, Pathankot, Prayagraj, Silchar, Tezpur, Bagdogra, Chandigarh, Pune, Visakhapatnam, Goa, Port Blair, Srinagar, Bareilly, Darbhanga, Hindon and Thanjavur. Out of these 30 Civil Enclaves, 26 are already operational.

(c) The Ministry of Civil Aviation has requested the Ministry of Defence to consider the waiver of landing charges of smaller aircraft, with a maximum certified capacity of less than 80 seats at Defence airfields.

Regional Connectivity Scheme routes

1282. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of routes awarded in phase 1 and 2 under the Regional Connectivity Scheme that are operational;
- (b) whether there has been a delay in operationalising these routes; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) The total number of routes awarded under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) –UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) version 1.0 and 2.0 are 433. Out of these, 138 routes are operational.

(b) and (c) Due to following factors, there is delay in operationalizing the routes or discontinuing of the routes:–

- (i) Non-readiness of civil airports/heliports, which may be related to availability of land, creating regional infrastructure, obtaining license from the Regulator etc.
- (ii) Delay in obtaining Scheduled Commuter Operators Permit by new entrant Airlines.
- (iii) Unsustainability of the operation on the awarded routes.

Study on air passenger traffic

1283. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to increase the number of airports in the State of Jharkhand and in its neighbouring States like Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh;