

- (b) whether flights from all these airports have started;
- (c) if not, which are the airports from where the regular flight is yet to start;
- (d) how much time will be taken to operationalise all these airports in small cities; and
- (e) what is the status of Pakyong airport which was inaugurated by Prime Minister on 24th September, 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) 39 airports (23 un-served and 16 under-served) in the country have been developed and operationalized in the last two years. The flight operations have commenced at these airports.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Pakyong airport is an operational airport and can handle ATR-72 and Q400 type of aircraft operations under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) conditions. M/s SpiceJet which were operating daily one scheduled flight on Kolkata-Pakyong-Kolkata sector have decided to temporarily suspend its operations w.e.f. 01.06.2019 due to unpredictable weather which results in low visibility at Pakyong.

Solar power plants at airports

1916. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is setting up solar power plants in airports across the country to meet their power needs;
- (b) the number of airports which have been selected in the first phase of establishment of solar plants;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is a great delay taking place in the process of establishment of solar plants at these airports, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to resolve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is setting up solar power plants at various airports for its captive power consumption based on the technical feasibility and capacity permissible under Net-Metering policy of the respective States.

(b) AAI has installed solar power plants at 37 of its airports and has identified another 10 airports for installation of solar power plants. Apart from this, solar power plants have also been installed at 5 JV/private airports.

(c) and (d) The slight delay in setting up of solar power plants is mainly attributed to the delay in obtaining various clearances/NOC from the Regulatory Authorities for utilizing land in the operational areas of the airport, permission from Distribution Company (DISCOM) for grid connectivity and non-extension of Net Metering facility for the Ground Mounted Solar Power Plants at Airports, etc. AAI has already taken up the matter with respective DISCOM of States/Regulatory Authority.

Expansion and development of airports under UDAN-RCS

1917. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed the identification of small towns for expansion and development of airports under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik) Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), the details thereof;

(b) the details of the States which have joined hands in this scheme, the details of the towns and airports developed/to be developed under this scheme, particularly in the State of Telangana;

(c) the quantum of funds earmarked and released so far; and

(d) the present status of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN scheme on 21.10.2016 to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. Promoting affordability of regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS-UDAN by supporting airline operators through (i) concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes and (ii) financial support (Viability Gap Funding) to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on regional routes. The interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit proposals at the time of bidding under RCS-UDAN from time to time.

(b) Except Goa, Mizoram, Chandigarh, Delhi, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep, 30 States and Union Territories have signed the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority