

Cities connected under the UDAN scheme in Uttar Pradesh

479. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of cities connected by air under the UDAN scheme (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the names of cities which are planned to be connected under the UDAN scheme within next three years in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (c) whether progress of the UDAN scheme is going on as per stipulated time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) 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 a 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. Cities in Uttar Pradesh, which have been connected by air under RCS - UDAN are Kanpur, Agra, Lucknow and Prayagraj. Further, Implementing Agency *i.e.* Airports Authority of India has awarded RCS - UDAN routes to Varanasi, Aligarh, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Bareilly, Chitrakoot, Faizabad, Ghazipur, Jhansi, Kushinagar, Moradabad, Muirpur (Korba), Saharanpur and Shravasti, in Uttar Pradesh. RCS-UDAN is monitored on regular basis for timely implementation and corrective steps are taken whenever required.

Air accidents due to flying of drones

480. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some air accidents have been reported due to flying of drones around airport area;
- (b) whether Government propose to make all airports as drone free zone to have smooth flying of auto piloted aircrafts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) No accident has been reported due to flying of drones around airport area.