

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. RCS - UDAN is market driven scheme. The interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit their proposals at the time of bidding under RCS -UDAN from time to time. Promoting affordability of regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS by supporting Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) through concessions by Central Government, State Governments/UTs and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes and financial support (Viability Gap Funding or VGF) to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such RCS routes. Central Government and State Governments share Viability Gap Funding (VGF) in the ratio of 80:20 whereas for the States in North-Eastern region/Union Territories (UTs) the ratio is 90:10. Thus, VGF is paid to the SAOs as per their bid documents for operation of RCS flights under the scheme. However, as per the provision of the scheme document, Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) allocation is made in a manner that promotes balanced growth/regional connectivity in different parts of the country in line with the objective and provision of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016. Under RCS - UDAN, 688 RCS routes have been awarded by the Implementing Agency. Out of which, 232 RCS routes have been commenced so far. Since the launch of the scheme, more than 31 lakh passengers have flown in RCS-UDAN flights. Total VGF paid for RCS - UDAN flights as on 30.11.2019 is ₹ 512.64 crore.

Development of airports in Uttar Pradesh

†2566. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any action plan to provide facility of airport service to all district headquarters;

(b) if so, the number and names of the district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh which still do not have the facility of airport; and

(c) whether Government would consider to accord priority to the most backward districts of Etah and Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh and provide airport facilities there?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has formulated a Greenfield Airport Policy for development of Greenfield Airports across the country including district headquarters. In addition, MoCA has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme RCS (UDAN) for connecting unserved and underserved airports in the country including district headquarters. RCS (UDAN) is a demand driven scheme. Under RCS-UDAN, 688 RCS routes have been awarded connecting 137 small cities. Out of above, operations have started in 43 small cities till date including in cities of Agra, Prayagraj and Kanpur (Chakeri) in Uttar Pradesh. Under UDAN version 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0, sixteen (16) number of unserved/underserved airports of Uttar Pradesh have been identified namely Agra, Aligarh, Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Bareilly, Chitrakoot, Faizabad, Ghazipur, Jhansi, Kanpur (Chakeri), Kushinagar, Meerut, Moradabad, Muirpur (Korba), Saharanpur and Shravasti.

Job security for employees of Air India

2567. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the jobs of all existing employees of Air India will be secured once the National Carrier is disinvested; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to the disinvestment of Air India. Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) has, *inter-alia*, approved the 100 per cent sale of Government of India stake in Air India along with Air India Express Ltd. and Air India stake in AISATS. The preparation of Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) for inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for the strategic disinvestment of Air India is in process, the contours of which will be decided by AISAM. While finalizing the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) for inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for the strategic disinvestment of Air India, the AISAM would address the issue and take appropriate decision.

Digital Sky platform

2568. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: