

Air India along with the details of employees/officers above/below the age of forty is as under:-

	Total	Below 40 years	40 years and above
Permanent	9428	1657	7771
Contractual	4201	3969	232

Out of the above mentioned contractual employees, 1551 employees/officers have been engaged on contractual basis during the last three years.

Air service from smaller cities

†970. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to commence air services from small cities of the country under UDAN scheme in public interest;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a timeline to commence aviation services with effect from the month of June from Darbhanga, Purnea and Bhagalpur was fixed; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not commencing aviation services till date and by when the services are proposed to be commenced?

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) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. In the 2nd round of bidding under RCS - UDAN, Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency, awarded the following network to Selected Airline Operator (SAO) for starting air services from Darbhanga in Bihar:-

1. Mumbai - Darbhanga - Mumbai
2. Delhi - Darbhanga - Delhi
3. Bangalore - Darbhanga - Bangalore

The RCS operations from Darbhanga can be commenced once the runway is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

strengthened to required capacity for operations of aircraft (B-737) as submitted in the bid by the SAO. AAI has taken up the works for strengthening of the runway and construction of terminal building. No airline has submitted any bid to operate RCS-UDAN flights connecting Bhagalpur airport under RCS-UDAN. Purnea is a Defence airport which is under repair, hence not available for bidding under RCS-UDAN currently.

Replacement of Neo engines in aircrafts

971. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the malfunctioning of neo engines made by Pratt and Whitney (PW) in aircrafts operated by Indian carriers;

(b) whether it is a fact that DGCA has given notice to Indigo airlines for replacement of neo engines in aircrafts operated by the airlines; and

(c) the steps taken by DGCA to ensure safety of travellers following many air crashes in different parts of the world due to malfunctioning of engines of flawed design and software used by aircraft manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Incidents involving Airbus A320 Neo aircraft fitted with Pratt and Whitney (P&W) 1100G Engine operated by Indian operators have been reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). In light of recent cases of inflight shutdown in Indigo fleet, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed the airline to replace all unmodified engines with modified engines by 31st Jan, 2020.

(c) Technical snags/glitches are likely to occur during normal course of operation of the aircraft which are corrected as per manufacturer's guidance. Since induction, cases of engine related repetitive defects have been reported on Airbus A320 Neo aircraft fitted with PW1100G engines. DGCA has been in constant dialogue with the manufacturer of the engine for resolutions of these defects. While most of the initial defects experienced have been adequately addressed by the manufacturer, the current issues relating to Main Gear Box and Low Pressure Turbine (LPT) failures