

Compliance of directives of DGCA

328. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has suspended pilots for transmitting hijack code;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the DGCA has asked all airlines to strictly comply with the directives while flying; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) On 09.06.2019, M/s Air Asia aircraft operating flight I 5-715 (Delhi-Srinagar) was involved in an incident of erroneously squawking the hijack code. Immediately after the incident, both the pilots were kept off the flying duties pending investigation. Based on the deficiency observed during the investigation, the first officer was suspended for a period of three months and warning letter was issued to Pilot-in-Command before releasing for flying.

(c) and (d) No specific directive was issued after the incident. However, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) from time to time issues Civil Aviation Requirements and other guidelines so as to:

1. Fulfil the duties and obligations of India as a Contracting State under the convention relating to International Civil Aviation.
2. Standardize and harmonize the requirements taking into account the rules and regulations of other regulatory authorities.
3. To address any other issues related to safety of aircraft operations as may be considered necessary.

RCS-UDAN in Bihar

329. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recommended to start air services from Valmikinagar, Purnea, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Saharsa and by selecting them for providing regional air services under RCS-UDAN in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which air services are proposed to be started from these cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) 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 second 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. Bengaluru - Darbhanga - Bengaluru

The Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) are obligated to commence RCS flight operations on a RCS-route within a period of six months from the issuance of Letter of Award or within two months from the readiness of airport, whichever is later, unless any extension is granted by the Implementing Agency. The RCS operations from Darbhanga can be commenced once the runway is 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. Purnea is a Defence airport which is under repair, hence not available for bidding under RCS-UDAN currently. No airline has submitted any bid to operate RCS - UDAN flights connecting Bhagalpur, Saharsa and Valmikinagar airports under RCS - UDAN in the earlier rounds of bidding. Bhagalpur, Saharsa and Valmikinagar Airports figure under tentative lists of unserved Airports/Airstrips in the country of RCS - UDAN document of version 4.0. If any valid bid is received under RCS-UDAN, same shall be considered as per scheme document.

Construction of new airports

330. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the current status and the expenditure incurred for construction and development work of airports for which funds have been allocated during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise including Bihar;