

NITI Aayog had made the recommendations after evaluation of various aspects, *inter-alia*, including potential effects of privatisation of Air India on the aviation market and had come to the conclusion that the strategic disinvestment option of Air India was superior over its closure. It was felt that strategic disinvestment will ensure Air India survives as a going concern and Air India's continued presence in the market would also ensure that competition is not reduced.

UDAN scheme in Bihar

†1462. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the cities of Bihar from where it is planned to make the facility of air travel available under UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme;
- (b) the state of construction of basic infrastructure for enabling air travel in selected cities under this scheme; and
- (c) the details of the plan of expansion and development of Patna airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency for Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) has awarded the following routes/networks 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 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.

(c) Expansion and Development of Patna Airport is being carried out by AAI at a cost of ₹ 1216.90 crore which includes:—

- (i) Construction of New Terminal Building.

- (ii) Multilevel Car Park.
- (iii) Elevated Road Way.
- (iv) New Air Traffic Control Tower and Technical Block.
- (v) Fire Station.
- (vi) Cargo Building.
- (vii) Residential Quarters and other allied structures.
- (viii) Construction of isolation Bay, for which 12 acres of land has been requested from the State Government.
- (ix) Construction of Parallel Taxi Track (PTT) to enhance the Runway capacity by acquiring 25 acres of land which include 19 acres of ICAR land and 6 acres of State Government land.

Cancellation of flights for technical snags

1463. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is collecting data on the number of technical issues that cause flights to be cancelled and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of emergency landings commercial passenger aircrafts have made since 2017 and the aircraft make and model of the same; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure recurring aircraft technical issues are solved before the aircraft is allowed to fly with commercial passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) receives flights cancellation data due to technical reasons as a part of monthly submission of traffic data by the scheduled airlines. The details of flights cancelled due to technical reasons for the year 2019-2020 are as below:—

Month	Flights cancelled
Jan. 2019	134
Feb. 2019	171