

Agency has awarded 688 valid routes involving 138 RCS airports including heliports and wateraerodromes. Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) under the scheme have commenced 266 RCS routes connecting 48 RCS airports including 3 heliports.

(d) A sum of ₹ 874.30 crore has been deposited in the Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust (RACFT) by the domestic scheduled airline operators till 1st March, 2020 and a sum of ₹ 653.52 crore has been disbursed to SAOs under the scheme as Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

#### **Upgradation at Patahi airport, Muzaffarpur**

1941. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after many assurances operation of passenger flights from Patahi airport, Muzaffarpur is still a far cry, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any infrastructure upgradation at Patahi airport, Muzaffarpur is currently at work, if so, the details thereof and by what time flight operation is expected to start from Patahi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Muzaffarpur airport is non-operational airport of Airports Authority of India (AAI). This airport figures in the tentative list of unserved airports in Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) document. RCS-UDAN is a market driven mechanism. Development of regional air connectivity routes is left to market forces. The interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit proposals at the time of bidding under RCS-UDAN from time to time.

AAI, the Implementing Agency for RCS-UDAN has completed three rounds of bidding under RCS-UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) but no valid bid has been received for RCS operations from Muzaffarpur.

#### **Progress of UDAN scheme**

1942. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of UDAN scheme since its launch, how many passengers have been benefitted with this scheme, what are the details thereof;