

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) The Government, consequent to the approval by Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM), has issued a Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) inviting Expression of Interest for sale of 100% equity share capital of Air India Limited (AIL) including AIL's 100% shareholding in the Air India Express Limited (AIXL) and 50% shareholding in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) on 27.01.2020. Corrigendums have been issued wherein time period upto 06.03.2020 has been given for submission of written queries on PIM and Share Purchase Agreement (SPA). Last date for release of response to queries on PIM (and SPA, if so provided by the GOI at its discretion) is 16.03.2020. The process has been divided into two stages. In the stage I, Expression of Interest will be submitted by Interested Bidders and they will be shortlisted based on Eligibility criteria and other terms mentioned in the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM). In the stage-II, shortlisted Interested Bidders will be provided with an Request for Proposal (RFP) and thereafter there will be a transparent bidding process.

(d) and (e) The details regarding bid parameters have been provided in the PIM and time has been provided upto 6.3.2020 for submission of written queries on PIM and Share Purchase Agreement (SPA).

Air routes under RCS-UDAN

1940. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of routes announced under RCS-UDAN since its inception in April 2017 and how many of those are currently working;
- (b) how many airports have been inaugurated all over the country since the scheme came into force;
- (c) how many of these airports are currently operational; and
- (d) how much money has the RCS fund collected to date and how much has that been disbursed as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing

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;