

(b) whether any study has been conducted to find out the adverse impact on export of goods due to the non-existence of Raipur cargo terminal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Presently, there is no proposal for building an International Cargo Terminal at Raipur Airport by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Raipur Airport has neither been Customs notified nor have international flights commenced operations so far. These are some of the important criteria that are taken into consideration prior to the creation of international air cargo facilities. No study has been undertaken by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, including AAI, on any adverse impact on exports of goods from Raipur Airport due to the absence of international air cargo facilities. Moreover, since the domestic cargo facilities were operationalised at Raipur Airport, no study on their utilisation to link up with international supply chains via other airports in India have been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

#### **UDAN scheme in West Bengal**

1923. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve regional connectivity in West Bengal under the UDAN scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the routes and airports operationalised under UDAN scheme in West Bengal; and

(c) whether the Ministry plans to start a route between Durgapur and Bengaluru under the UDAN scheme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) 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. Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency has awarded 5 (five) airports namely Cooch Behar, Burnpur, Durgapur, Kalaikunda and Hashimara of West Bengal under RCS-UDAN for operations of RCS

flights till 3rd round of bidding. However, RCS routes connecting Burnpur & Cooch Behar have been cancelled due to non-compliance of Selected Airline Operator (SAO) agreement by SAO. Details of the valid RCS routes operationalized till 5th March, 2020, connecting West Bengal are given in the Statement (See below). Presently, Durgapur and Bengaluru are served airports and therefore, routes between Durgapur & Bengaluru do not come under the purview of RCS.

**Statement**

*Status of valid RCS routes operationalized connecting airports in West Bengal as on 05th March, 2020*

Departure Airport	Arrival Airport	Operator
Kolkata	Allahabad	Indigo
Kolkata	Jorhat	Indigo
Kolkata	Lilabari	Spicejet
Kolkata	Pakyong*	Spicejet
Kolkata	Tezpur	Zoom Air
Durgapur	Chennai	Spicejet
Durgapur	Mumbai	Spicejet
Kolkata	Gwalior	Spicejet
Kolkata	Jharsuguda	Alliance Air
Kolkata	Jharsuguda	Spicejet
Kolkata	Shilong	Indigo
Kolkata	Amritsar (TRCS)	Indigo

\* Discontinued due to pending air navigational study.

**Selling Air India to strategic buyer**

1924. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to sell Air India to a strategic buyer;