

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Circular dated 23.03.2020 titled as 'Social distancing measures by airlines and airport operators' and Order dated 31.05.2020 titled as 'Directions for protecting health of persons involved in air travel' for airline operators, airports operators and ground handling agents. DGCA has not received any non-compliance report on the part of airlines, so far.

(d) Ministry of Civil Aviation *vide* Order dated 21.05.2020 permitted recommencement of domestic civil flight operations with effect from 25.05.2020 to a limited extent of 1/3rd of their respective approved capacity of Summer Schedule, 2020. Since then, Ministry has been reviewing periodically recommencement of domestic operations, prevailing COVID-19 situation and passenger demand for air travel. Based on the periodical review of operations, Ministry of Civil Aviation have enhanced domestic air operations from 33% to 45% and thereafter to 60% of approved capacity of Summer Schedule, 2020. On account of COVID-19, civil aviation sector including airlines have been affected adversely. Keeping in view the interest of the passengers, financial health of the aviation sector and present crisis of COVID-19, Ministry of Civil Aviation, as a temporary measure, has specified the range of sector-wise air fares for a specified period, presently applicable upto 24th November, 2020.

Induction of Dornier-228 aircrafts under UDAN scheme

327. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether DGCA has issued modification document to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the operation of under UDAN scheme;

(b) if so, the special features of the modified version of Dornier-228 which would make the aircraft worthy of operation;

(c) the number of Dornier-228 which are proposed to be inducted by the Airlines initially; and

(d) whether HAL has built up the capabilities for production of Dornier-228 aircrafts as per the demands and whether the aircraft would be cost-competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA) on 3 February 2020 has conveyed its provisional approval for the modifications on the Dornier-228-201 civil aircraft carried out by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for limiting the weight of the upgraded aircraft upto 5,700 kgs., rendering it certified for air transport operations, including under the Regional Connectivity Scheme- 1 Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN)

(b) Dornier-228-201 is a 19-seater aircraft with short take-off and landing capability and can be operated from short airfields and semi-paved runways. Besides being equipped with fuel efficient engines and 5-bladed composite propellers whose maintenance is cost effective, it is an all-weather aircraft with modern avionics and navigation amenable for multi role operations, viz. passenger and cargo transportation, VIP movement, ambulance services, para-drop and para-troop movements, etc.

(c) 02 Nos. of Dornier-228-201 have been issued the Certificate of Airworthiness by DGCA, while another 07 Nos. are under production by HAL.

(d) HAL envisages production of 10-12 Nos. of Do-228-201 aircraft annually as per their demand estimates. The production rate can be increased by them as per demand requirements in order to harness economies of scale and enhance cost competitiveness.

Registration of drones

328. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any restriction has been imposed on possession of un-manned civil drones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the registration of drones is compulsory even for those which are used for photography of ceremonial functions; and

(d) whether Government propose to impose any fee for the operation of drones;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) The possession and operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), commonly known as drones, is regulated by the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 3, Series X, Part 1 issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).