

(b) the details of new Greenfield airport projects underdoing or are likely to come up in near future in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat;

(c) the detail of the novel sea-plane service and short distance helicopter service about to begin and already began in the country and particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(d) whether sea-plane/short distance helicopter service is economically viable, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. RCS - UDAN is a market driven scheme. The interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit their proposals at the time of bidding under RCS -UDAN from time to time.

Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency has awarded Kadappa airport and Prakasam Barrage Water aerodrome in Andhra Pradesh for operation of RCS flights. RCS flights from Kadappa to Hyderabad and Vijayawada have already commenced. Further, AAI has awarded Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Kandla and Porbander airports and Shatrunjay dam, Statue of Unity, and Sabarmati Riverfront Water aerodromes in Gujarat for operation of RCS flights. RCS flights have commenced from Bhavnagar to Ahmedabad, Jamnagar to Ahmedabad, Kandla to Mumbai and Porbandar to Mumbai. Domestic flight operations which remain suspended from 25th March, 2020 to 24th May, 2020, recommenced with effect from 25.05.2020 (including RCS routes). Airlines are resuming the commenced RCS routes in a calibrated manner.

Greenfield Airports are being developed at Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat and Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram, Oravakallu in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Economic viability of Seaplane/Helicopter operations depend upon various factors such as demand, fare, cost of operations, infrastructure costs, extent of State support etc.

#### **Rationalization of airfare**

1132. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to rationalize airfare charged by domestic

airlines to ensure that these do not incur losses because of tough competition amongst themselves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to allot specific routes to each airline under UDAN scheme to maintain healthy competition as well as reasonability in airfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) 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.

(c) Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) is a market driven scheme. The interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit their proposals at the time of bidding under RCS - UDAN from time to time. The airline operators are selected through a transparent and competitive bidding process. Selected Airline Operators are given exclusivity of operations on awarded RCS routes for a period of three years. Airfare of the seats on which Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is provided are capped at a subsidized rate, making flying affordable for the masses.

#### **Plane crash at Kozhikode**

1133. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the preliminary findings of the ongoing Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) investigation into the Kozhikode plane crash;

(b) whether Government plans to extend the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) at Kozhikode following the plane crash;

(c) if so, the details thereof including estimated time frame and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what monitoring mechanism is employed by the DGCA in order to minimize pilot error?