

approval for leasing of six airports after following the due process. Services of AAI employees will not be affected and their services will continue to be protected in case they choose to remain with AAI.

(d) In order to meet the growing demand for airport infrastructure, participation of private sector is being encouraged so that, AAI will not be required to invest in development of these airports. The funds generated from the revenues received from the Concessionaires will be utilized for further development of other airports. These projects will bring efficiency in delivery, expertise, enterprise and professionalism apart from harnessing the private investment in the public sector. This will also result in enhanced revenues to the AAI, which may lead to further investment by AAI at Tier-II and Tier-III cities and economic development in these areas in terms of job creation and related infrastructure.

Contractual employees in Air India

†1141. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has decided to send its employees on leave without pay;

(b) the number of employees working as contractual staff/contract labour basis in the Ministry, whose contract have been terminated after lockdown and due to which they are jobless;

(c) whether economic relief was provided to such contractual employees during the lockdown period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is not a violation of labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Board of Directors of Air India in its 102nd meeting held on 07.07.2020 has approved a scheme whereby employees can opt to take leave

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

without pay ranging from 6 months or for 2 years and the same can be extendable up to 5 years (On Voluntary Basis). The scheme also authorizes Management to send the employees on leave subject to laid down conditions.

(b) No contract in respect of employees working on contractual basis has been terminated after lockdown in the Ministry or its Attached/ Subordinate offices.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Bidding for 4th round of UDAN

1142. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rounds of UDAN bidding process so far and how many routes have been awarded, State-wise;

(b) the details of routes so far commenced, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for non-commencement of operations in some routes and impact of COVID-19 on the same; and

(d) when the 4th round of UDAN bidding is going to be commenced; and

(e) whether 100 airports announced in the Financial Year 2020-21 budget are going to be included in this bidding, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) After three rounds of bidding under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), pre-COVID, 688 valid routes were awarded, out of which 281 routes were operationalized. After suspension of domestic flight operations from 25th March, 2020 to 24th May, 2020, domestic air services including RCS operations have recommenced with effect from 25.05.2020. Airlines are resuming the commenced RCS routes in a calibrated manner. Further, 78 new routes have been identified and approved under 1st phase of UDAN 4.0. Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency is in the process of awarding these routes to the Selected Airline Operators (SAOs). Details of the routes awarded and commenced under RCS-UDAN is given in Statement-I and II respectively.