

**Extension of Kadapa airport**

1148. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) when did the extension and strengthening of existing runway, taxi way and apron along with isolated bay, etc. undertaken in Kadapa airport;
- (b) the original estimate cost when the project was conceived; and
- (c) the details of expenditure so far made and by when, the above works are going to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) Expansion of airports is a continuous process. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken expansion works, including extension and strengthening of existing runway, taxi way and apron along with isolated bay, etc., at Kadapa airport in the State of Andhra Pradesh from September, 2017 with an estimated cost of ₹ 94.44 Crore with probable date of completion in March, 2021. So far, AAI has made an expenditure of ₹ 49 Crore on the said project.

**UDAN Scheme**

1149. SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is implementing the UDAN scheme across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many airports have already been connected under this scheme in Odisha in the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. Promoting affordability of regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS

- UDAN by supporting airline operators through (i) concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes and (ii) financial support (Viability Gap Funding) to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on regional routes. Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) allocation to regions is made in a manner that promotes balanced growth / regional connectivity in different parts of the country, as per the provisions of the Scheme document. Accordingly, to have an equitable distribution of RCF and enhanced air connectivity across the country, the country has been divided into five regions.

Routes connecting Jeypore, Utkela, Rourkela and Jharsuguda airports in Odisha were awarded under RCS-UDAN. These were subsequently cancelled due to the non-compliance of Selected Airline Operator (SAO) Agreement by the SAOs.

These airports were offered under second and third rounds of bidding under RCS-UDAN. However, no valid bid was received for Jeypore and Utkela Airport. Under UDAN third round, RCS routes connecting Jharsuguda to Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi and Raipur and RCS routes connecting Rourkela to Raipur and Bhubaneswar were awarded. Jharsuguda airport in Odisha has already been operationalized under UDAN scheme.

#### **Release of foreigners from detention centres**

1150. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court ordered release of foreigners from the detention centres in Assam due to COVID outbreak;

(b) if so, the total number of persons released from the detention centres and the number of persons still in the detention centres;

(c) whether any death took place in the detention centres, in the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed an order dated 13.04.2020 in *Suo Moto* Writ Petition (Civil) No.1/2020 in RE: CONTAGION OF COVID 19 VIRUS IN PRISONS directing that the prisoners or detenues who have been