

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 804
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25th July 2022
AIRPORTS IN WEST BENGAL

804. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the traffic at the different airports in West Bengal in terms of flights and number of passengers?

(b) the reasons for Government selecting West Bengal for the 'Most Pro-active States? Award for implementing the Regional Connectivity Scheme?

(c) the immediate plans for improvement of traffic and infrastructure at Kolkata, Bagdogra, Malda, Cooch Behar, Andal, Balurghat and other airports in West Bengal? and

(d) whether the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) the West Bengal Government had been paying for RCS flights operating from the State is on expected line with Government stated target?

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

(a): The details of traffic at different Airports in West Bengal in terms of flights and number of passengers is as per Annexure.

(b) & (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. UDAN is a market driven scheme. Under the scheme, tentative lists of unserved & underserved airports are offered for interested airlines to assess the demand on

particular routes connecting these airports and submit their proposals at the time of bidding. This is a dynamic process and based on the inputs from stakeholders including the States/UTs, lists are revised/updated for the bidding rounds. An airport which included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of UDAN operations, is developed under 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme.

The Airports identified for the operation of RCS -UDAN flights in West Bengal include Andal (Durgapur), Cooch Behar, Hashimara, Kalaikunda and Burnpur. Cooch Behar Airport has been identified for operation with RCS routes connecting to Guwahati & Kolkata. Hashimara & Kalaikunda Airports have been identified for operation of RCS flights and the flights are to commence after handing over of land by the State Government and completion of the upgradation works. Burnpur Airport has been upgraded under UDAN for obtaining license. Malda Airport is listed in the list of unserved airports in the UDAN document and on request of the Government of West Bengal, the routes Malda-Kolkata-Malda were included for bidding as State Sponsored route, However, the said route could not be awarded as the State Government of West Bengal has not given its consent to bear 100% VGF to be provided to the SAO. Balurghat Airstrip is available in the list of RCS-UDAN Scheme documents and no Airline has submitted a bid for RCS flights so far.

(d): Viability Gap Funding (VGF) disbursed to the SAOs under UDAN is shared in 80:20 ratio by Central and State Governments respectively. Currently, till 14.07.2022, the amount to be reimbursed by the State Government of West Bengal is Rs. 4.62 crore on account of its 20% share towards VGF to Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust (RACFT).

Flights and Passenger traffic handled at West Bengal Airports		
Airport	Aircraft Movements (In Numbers)	Passengers(In Numbers)
	2021-22	2021-22
KOLKATA	99865	11036108
BAGDOGRA	16250	1980049
DURGAPUR	1926	249975
COOCH BEHAR	2	7
Grand Total	118043	13266139

Note: (i) Aircraft Movements , landing and take-off of an aircraft are counted separately i.e. , one landing and one take-off are counted as two movements

(ii) Total Passengers Traffic handled consist of International (Embarked , Disembarked & Transit) and Domestic (Embarked & Disembared) passengers