GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 970
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27th November 2019)

AIR SERVICE FROM SMALLER CITIES

970. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to commence air services from small cities of the country under UDAN scheme in public interest;
(b) whether it is also a fact that a time-line to commence aviation services with effect from the month of June from Darbhanga, Purnea and Bhagalpur was fixed; and
(c) if so, the reasons for not commencing aviation services till date and by when the services are proposed to be commenced?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (c): Government has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. In the 2nd round of bidding under RCS - UDAN, Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency, awarded the following network to Selected Airline Operator (SAO) for starting air services from Darbhanga in Bihar:

1.Mumbai - Darbhanga - Mumbai
2.Delhi - Darbhanga - Delhi
3.Bangalore - Darbhanga - Bangalore

The RCS operations from Darbhanga can be commenced once the runway is strengthened to required capacity for operations of aircraft (B-737) as submitted in the bid by the SAO. AAI has taken up the works for strengthening of the runway and construction of terminal building. No airline has submitted any bid to operate RCS - UDAN flights connecting Bhagalpur airport under RCS - UDAN. Purnea is a Defence airport which is under repair, hence not available for bidding under RCS-UDAN currently.

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