

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha**

STARRED QUESTION NO. : 193

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st March 2022

DEVELOPMENT OF AIRPORTS IN CHHATTISGARH

193. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA

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

- (a) whether there are plans to establish airports at Bastar and Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh to provide regional connectivity and supplement tourism in the region, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the aforementioned cities are part of the UDAN scheme;**
- (c) if so, the time-line to establish these airports; and**
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 193 REGARDING "DEVELOPMENT OF AIRPORTS IN CHHATTISGARH" TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

(a) to (d): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and making air travel affordable to the masses. UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under the UDAN scheme.

Jagdalpur (Bastar) and Ambikapur are State owned airports. Airports Authority of India(AAI), Implementing Agency, has identified Jagdalpur and Ambikapur airports in Chhattisgarh for operation of RCS flights.

Jagdalpur airport is situated in an aspirational tribal district of Bastar and has been upgraded to enable the operations of ATR aircraft. Selected Airline

Operator (SAO) commenced its flights from Jagdalpur to Hyderabad and Raipur with ATR-72 type aircraft under UDAN. An amount of Rs. 41 crore has been incurred for development of airport.

Ambikapur was identified by AAI in 1st round of UDAN for connecting Raipur and Bilaspur. However, the Implementing Agency, has cancelled routes connecting Ambikapur awarded as SAO did not comply with provisions of the Agreement. The cancelled routes connecting Ambikapur was offered for bidding under UDAN 4.1 and no airline has submitted valid bid in this round. Till date, expenditure of an amount of Rs. 31.66 crore has been incurred for development of airport.