

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 198
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th March 2023
SEAPLANE PROJECT IN GUJARAT

198. DR. SANTANU SEN

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that Gujarat has spent Rs. 77 million to start a seaplane project that operated for less than six months in 2020-2021, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether previous operator, SpiceJet subsidiary SpiceShuttle, has reportedly not retendered for the contract, if so, the details of the new contractor;**
- (c) whether State Government of Gujarat has also sent a request to the Ministry for allocation of Rs. 1.2 billion (USD 15.7 million) to purchase two seaplanes, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the details of ongoing seaplane projects in the country in the last three years, State wise, year-wise?**

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.198 REGARDING "SEAPLANE PROJECT IN GUJARAT" TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2023.

(a) & (b): Ministry of Civil Aviation introduced a new mode of transportation i.e. seaplane operations from water aerodromes under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme. Sabarmati River Front & Statue of Unity water aerodromes were identified in UDAN for seaplane operations. An aerodrome of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Public Sector Undertakings and Civil Enclaves and which is 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. Under this scheme, as on 28.02.2023, the Government of India has reimbursed Rs. 146.41 crore for revival/development of airports/water aerodromes in the State of Gujarat for operation of UDAN flights.

The State Government of Gujarat has informed that they have spent Rs.7,77,65,991/- for development of infrastructure and security equipment for seaplane operations. Seaplane operations between Sabarmati River Front & Statue of Unity commenced on 31.10.2020 and discontinued on 11.04.2021 due to commercial and Covid-19 reasons. The State Government of Gujarat has awarded the seaplane route from Sabarmati Riverfront to Statue of Unity on 04.04.2022 to M/s Maritime Energy Heli Air Services Pvt. Ltd., therefore, the same was not offered under the subsequent UDAN bidding rounds.

UDAN is a market driven scheme. Bids are invited by the Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency, wherein the interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN.

(c): There is no provision under the 'revival/upgradation of airports/water aerodromes/heliports' scheme to provide funds for acquisition of an aircraft.

(d): Water aerodromes identified under various round of bidding of UDAN are in the States of Gujarat, Assam, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Lakshadweep. The State-wise details of the Water Aerodromes identified under UDAN is attached as Annexure.

Statue of Unity and Sabarmati Riverfront water aerodromes in Gujarat have already been developed and operationalized under UDAN on 31.10.2020.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 198 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2023**

S. No.	State / UT	Water Aerodromes
1	Andaman & Nicobar(UT)	Swaraj Deep (Havelock)
2	Andaman & Nicobar(UT)	Long Island
3	Andaman & Nicobar(UT)	SaheedDweep (Neil)
4	Andaman & Nicobar(UT)	Port Blair
5	Andaman & Nicobar(UT)	Maya Bundar
6	Gujarat	Sabarmati River Front
7	Gujarat	Statue of Unity
8	Gujarat	Dwarka
9	Lakshadweep	Agatti
10	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti
11	Lakshadweep	Minicoy
12	Lakshadweep	Kalpeni
13	Lakshadweep	Bitra
14	Lakshadweep	Kadmat
15	Lakshadweep	Kiltan
16	Lakshadweep	Bangaram
17	Assam	Guwahati River Front
18	Assam	Umrangso Reservoir
19	Assam	Kaziranga
20	Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam Barrage
21	Telangana	NagarjunaSagar Dam
22	Goa	Goa
23	Goa	North Goa
24	Goa	South Goa
25	Himachal Pradesh	Dalhousie