

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 3532
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd April 2023)

BILASPUR-INDORE-BILASPUR FLIGHT

3532. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA

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

- (a) the reasons for discontinuing the Bilaspur-Bhopal-Bilaspur flight, three years back, which was started under the UDAN scheme?
- (b) the number of passengers travelled along with the dates of their travelling in the Bilaspur-Indore-Bilaspur flight and the fares fixed by the Alliance Air Company on these dates?
- (c) whether the Bilaspur-Indore flight was started only in lieu of the closure of the Bilaspur- Bhopal flight? and
- (d) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the Bilaspur-Indore-Bilaspur flight now?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (d): Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) 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 UDAN.

Selected Airline Operator (SAO) discontinued the flight operations on Bilaspur-Bhopal- Bilaspur sector due to low passenger demand which is 42% average Passenger Load factor for the period from October, 2022 to February, 2023.

Bilaspur-Indore-Bilaspur has not been awarded under the UDAN Scheme. Airfares are neither established nor regulated by the Government. Under the provisions of Sub Rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services is required to establish tariff having regard to all relevant factors including cost of operation, characteristic of services, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff.

After repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation market has been deregulated. Consequently, airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type for selecting whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate with compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government across the country. Thus, it is up to the airlines to provide air services to/from any airport in the country depending on their operational and commercial viability. The Ministry of Civil Aviation regularly interacts with the airlines to promote air connectivity.
