

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1615
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th December 2023)**

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY FUND

1615. SMT MAUSAM NOOR

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

- (a) whether Government can provide an update on the status of the finalization of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for accounting procedures under the Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) as mandated by the Institutional Mechanism framed in November, 2016;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government can provide details on the steps taken to ensure transparency and accountability in the Regional Connectivity Fund operations, especially regarding financial support and concessions provided to airline operators under the scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (c): Accounting standards are followed for managing and maintaining the Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust (RACFT). The RACFT fund accounts are subject to audit by Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The Standard Operating Procedures for collection of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from States / Union Territories /Ministry of Tourism and disbursement of VGF to Selected Airline Operators are under process of formulation.

(d) & (e): The VGF claims of the Select Airline Operators, are being verified through AIMS Billing software of AAI and from the Airport Operators regarding the flights being flown for the period before making the payment towards the financial support to the airlines ensuring transparency.

The concessions are inbuilt in the scheme and it is being passed on to the airline operator by the Centre, States and airport operators.
