

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 9
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22nd July 2024)**

**NON-OPERATIONAL AND UNDER-OPERATIONAL AIRPORT IN
BIHAR**

*9. DR. BHIM SINGH

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

(a) Whether Arrah, Begusarai, Bettiah, Bhabua (Kaimur), Bhagalpur, Bihar Sharif, Bihta, Birpur, Buxar, Chhapra, Dehri-on-Sone (Rohtas), Forbesganj, Hathua (Gopalganj), Jehanabad, Jogbani, Katihar, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Motihari, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Raxaul, Saharsa and Valmiki Nagar in the State of Bihar are listed in the list of non-operational/under-operational airports under UDAN scheme for promoting regional air connectivity, if so, the details of work progress in all the districts;

(b) By when air operations are likely to commence in the above districts enlisted in the list of non-operational/under-operational airports; and

(c) The districts in Bihar listed under UDAN scheme for which bids have been received and the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 9 FOR REPLY ON 22.07.2024 REGARDING NON-OPERATIONAL AND UNDER-OPERATIONAL AIRPORT IN BIHAR ASKED BY DR. BHIM SINGH.

(a) to (c): Arrah, Begusarai, Bettiah, Bhabua (Kaimur), Bhagalpur, Bihar Sharif, Bihta, Birpur, Buxar, Chhapra, Dehri-On-Sone (Rohtas), Forbesganj, Hathua (Gopalganj), Jehanabad, Jogbani, Katihar, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Motihari, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Raxaul, Saharsa and Valmiki Nagar airstrips/airports in the State of Bihar are in the list of unserved airports under UDAN scheme.

UDAN is an ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. Based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, interested airlines submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. An unserved airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of UDAN operations, is developed under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme.

Under UDAN 2.0, bids were received for connecting Darbhanga airport. The airport was identified and developed at a cost of Rs 126.85 crores under 'Revival/Development of unserved/underserved airstrips' scheme. SpiceJet commenced RCS flights from Darbhanga to Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru. The 3 years tenure of RCS routes completed on 7.11.23. Darbhanga-Mumbai and Darbhanga-Delhi are still operational as non-RCS routes.

Under UDAN 5.0, bids for routes connecting Bihta & Purnea airports were received however since Airports Authority of India has decided to build these airports, the bids for these routes have not been awarded.

Under UDAN 5.2 for small aircraft (less than 20-seaters), bids have been received for routes connecting Birpur, Saharsa, Bhagalpur, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Valmiki Nagar, Motihari, Raxaul, Madhubani, and Chhapra airports.

The State Government of Bihar has been requested to provide their consent and confirmation regarding the availability of land (free of cost and free from all encumbrances) for the airport development to operate small aircraft (2B) and for future expansion to category 3C, as well as the liability for provision of security, fire services, meteorological services and the Operation and Management of the airports.
