

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1054
(To be answered on the 21st December 2017)**

Air Services

**1054. SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH BHOLE
SHRI KIRTI AZAD
SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any action-plan to make air travel affordable to the lower strata of the society and provide air connectivity to small cities, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Members of Parliament have demanded to start flight services from various airports of Bihar such as Darbhanga, Purnia and Muzaffarpur and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch air services from Raipur airport to Bilaspur, Raipur, Ambikapur and Jagdalpur (Bastar) in Chhattisgarh State and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the proposal received and action taken regarding launch of air services to the respective States from different parts of the country during the last three years and the current year, State/UT and year-wise?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

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- (a): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN scheme on 21-10-2016 to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. Promoting affordability of Regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS by supporting airline operators through (i) concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes and (ii) financial support (Viability Gap Funding or VGF).
 - (b): Yes, a letter was received from Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha regarding flight services from various airports of Bihar including Darbhanga, Purnia and Muzaffarpur under RCS-UDAN.
 - (c): Airports Authority of India, Implementing Agency for RCS UDAN has

awarded the network proposal Raipur->Bilaspur->Ambikapur->Bilaspur->Raipur->Jharsuguda->Raipur->Raigarh->Raipur->Jagdalpur->Vishakhapatnam->Jagdalpur->Raipur to M/s Air Odisha Aviation Private Limited under first round of bidding under RCS-UDAN.

(d): With repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian aviation sector was deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate. Government has however, laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) with a view to achieve better connectivity of air transport services of different regions of the country. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance with RDGs issued by Government.
