

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4554
(To be answered on the 22nd March 2018)**

Policy for Expansion of Air Services

4554. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has formulated any concrete policy for expansion of inter-State services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide Delhi-Varanasi air services via Azamgarh in near future in view of the large number of persons from Azamgarh working in the Gulf countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme RCS (UDAN) on 21st October, 2016. The primary objective of RCS is to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity including the State of Uttar Pradesh by making it affordable by supporting airline operators through (1) concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes / other support measures and (2) financial (viability gap funding or VGF) support to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such routes.

(c) & (d): With repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian Aviation 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. Under the provision of Sub-rule (1A) of rule 134 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 the Central Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines, with a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.