

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 348
(To be answered on the 19th July 2018)**

HELICOPTER SERVICES

348. SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the present operations of helicopters and construct more heliports at various places in the country to improve air connectivity especially in smaller cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the places identified for this purpose, State-wise including Karnataka; and
- (c) the time by which regular helicopter services are likely to be started in smaller cities

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) to (c) :

Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN) with prime objective to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. To encourage helicopter operations under the Scheme, VGF Cap for Helicopters increased and upto 10% of the estimated annual inflows in the RCF earmarked for operations through helicopters in priority areas as per the RCS Version 2.0 launched in September 2017. Airport Authority of India (AAI), the implementing agency, has awarded 23 proposals to selected bidders for Helicopter services covering 31 helipads/ heliports in the Priority areas. As per the scheme the priority areas are the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand, North Eastern Region, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. As per the provisions of the scheme, the Selected Airline Operator shall be obligated to commence RCS Flight operations on an RCS Route, as part of Individual Route Proposal or a Network Proposal within a period of 180 days from the issuance of Letter of Award for such Individual Route Proposal or a Network Proposal unless any extension is granted by the Implementing Agency.
