

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2599
(To be answered on the 22nd December 2022)**

RCS CHARGES

2599. SHRI A. RAJA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), UDAN three times w.e.f. 1st of April, 2023;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the airlines propose to increase the total air fares from passengers, making the air travel unaffordable to the common people and if so, the details thereof
- (d) whether the Government proposes to reconsider increase in RCS charges in the interest of common people who have to travel by air for various exigencies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a) to (e): Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) has been launched to stimulate Regional Connectivity on 21.10.2016 from underserved and unserved airports and to make air travel affordable for the masses. UDAN is a self-financing scheme. Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) is created by levying Rs.5,000/- on each departure of flights on aircraft having MTOW (Maximum Take-Off Weight) above 40 Tonnes except for the departure of flights on routes in North East Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency provides Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to the Selected Airline Operators(SAOs) from this RCF for operation of flights as per the provisions of the UDAN document. The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is disbursed to the Selected Airline Operator (SAOs) under UDAN. To meet the liability of higher VGF outgo to the SAOs due to increased operationalization of UDAN routes, the Ministry of Civil Aviation vide its order dated 21.10.2022, revised the RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme) levy to Rs.10,000/- from 01.01.2023 and to Rs. 15,000/- from 01.04.2023 upto 30.04.2027. Airlines are free to pay the levy as per mechanism devised by them.
