

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 424
(To be answered on the 8th December 2022)**

SEAPLANE PROJECT IN GUJARAT

424. SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Gujarat spent INR 77 million (USD1 million) to start an ill-fated seaplane project that operated for less than six months in 2020-21 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the previous operator, SpiceJet subsidiary SpiceShuttle (SG, Delhi International), has reportedly not retendered for the contract and if so, the details of the new contractor; and
- (c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has also sent a request to the Ministry for an allocation of INR 1.2 billion (USD15.7 million) to purchase two seaplanes to independently operate the service and 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 (c): Ministry of Civil Aviation introduced a new mode of transportation i.e. seaplane operations from water aerodromes under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.

Sabarmati River Front & Statue of Unity water aerodromes were identified in UDAN for seaplane operations. An airport of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Public Sector Undertakings and Civil Enclaves and which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation / development for commencement of UDAN operations, is developed under "Revival of unserved and underserved airports" scheme. The State Government of Gujarat has informed that they have spent Rs.7,77,65,991/- for development of infrastructure and security equipment for seaplane operations.

Seaplane operations between Sabarmati River Front & Statue of Unity

commenced on 31 October, 2020 and discontinued on 11.04.2021 due to commercial and Covid-19, reasons. This route has not been offered under UDAN thereafter.

UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. Bids are invited by the Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency, from time to time.

(c): There is no provision under the 'revival/upgradation of airports/water aerodromes/heliports' scheme to provide funds for acquisition of an aircraft.
