AIR CONNECTIVITY

1229.   **ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री   **be pleased to state:-**

(a) whether the Government has received request/proposal to construct an airstrip in the district of Idukki to enhance air connectivity with major airports;
(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard;
(c) whether the Government has received any recommendation for starting new routes connecting this airstrip with Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government proposes to implement the same, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(e) whether the Government is aware of the construction of an NCC airstrip at Vandiperiyar, Idukki and if so, the details thereof; and
(f) whether the Government proposes to allow the use of the said airstrip for civilian purpose including connecting it with Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram 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 (f): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable. UDAN is a demand-driven scheme. Interested airline operators assess the feasibility of operation on a particular route and bid under the scheme. The selection of airlines is made through a transparent bidding process.

Idukki airstrip is not presently in the list of unserved airports under the UDAN Scheme document. UDAN is an ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted periodically for covering more destinations/stations and routes and in case, any airline submits bids for routes in future rounds of bidding, the same may be considered as per provisions of the Scheme document.

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