

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1741
(To be answered on the 28th November 2019)**

FLIGHT CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA AND ANDHRA PRADESH

1741. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is any plan under consideration of the Government to increase flights in the Odisha Region under new UDAN scheme to ease the poor air connectivity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has made any serious efforts in opening up the Odisha and Andhra Pradesh Region skies for the private companies to operate so as to have equal opportunities with the Government owned Air India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र पक्ष)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) & (b): Government has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. RCS - UDAN is market driven mechanism. Under the scheme, airlines assess demand and nature of supply required on particular route and based on their analysis participate in the bidding process to be conducted from time to time. In the first round of bidding under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), routes connecting Jeypore, Utkela, Rourkela and Jharsuguda airports were awarded. Routes connecting these airports were however cancelled subsequently due to the non compliance of Selected Airline Operator (SAO) Agreement. These airports were offered under second and third rounds of bidding under RCS-UDAN. However, no valid bid was received for Jeypore and Utkela Airport. Under UDAN third round, RCS routes connecting Jharsuguda airport to Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi and Raipur airport were awarded. Operations on these routes, except Jharsuguda-Mumbai have commenced. Jharsuguda-Mumbai route

could not be operationalized as the Selected Airline Operator has suspended its operations. Routes from Rourkela to Bhubaneswar and Rourkela to Raipur were awarded to SAOs. However, operations could not be commenced due to non-readiness of Rourkela Airport for the aircraft (ATR - 72) mentioned in the bid by the SAO.

(c) & (d) : With the repeal of Air Corporation Act in March, 1994, the Indian domestic aviation has been deregulated and airlines are free to select any market and network they wish to service and operate. Government has, however, laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines, with a view to achieve better air connectivity to different regions in the country. It is therefore, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.
