

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 804  
(To be answered on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019)**

**IMPROVEMENT OF AIR CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION**

**804. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) the details of steps taken by the Government to improve air connectivity in the North Eastern Region of the country;
- (b) whether flight operations under the UDAN scheme has taken a back seat especially in the States of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Tezpur in Assam and if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to operate international flights from this region and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the current status of international flights that operate from the airports of North East India along with north east and Gujarat connectivity?

**ANSWER**

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

**नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)**

**(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)**

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- (a) and (b): Government has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. RCS - UDAN is a market driven mechanism. Development of regional air connectivity routes is left to market forces and airlines undertake assessment of demand and nature of supply required on particular routes and lead the process under RCS - UDAN. States of North Eastern Region have been included as Priority Area(s) in the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik). Helicopter services have also been included in the scheme for better connectivity of Priority Area(s). For Priority RCS Routes, the number of RCS Flights to be operated in a week with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) shall be a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of fourteen (14) departures per week from the same RCS Airport so that the RCS Flights are operated on at least three (3) days of the week. The details of the flight operations in the States of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Tezpur in Assam are as follows:
- Mizoram : Aizawl airport in Mizoram is a served airport. Therefore, RCS flight could be operated from Mizoram to other RCS airports only. However, Implementing Agency has awarded Aizawl - Agartala - Aizawl route under Tourism RCS.
- Meghalaya : Implementing Agency has awarded RCS route between Shillong &

Kolkata and Shillong & Guwahati River Front (Water Aerodrome).

Tripura : Kailashahar, Kamalpur & Khowai are available in list of Unserved airport (in priority area). But, no airline submitted valid bid for operation of RCS flights from these airports.

Tezpur in Assam : RCS routes between Kolkata & Tezpur were awarded to Selected Airline Operator (SAO). RCS Helicopter routes from Tezpur to Itanagar, Jorhat & Nagaon have been awarded to Selected Airline Operators.

(c) and (d): On request of State Government of Assam, UDAN International has been launched. The bidding process for routes connecting Guwahati to Kathmandu, Dhaka, Yangon, Bangkok, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur has been completed. After e-bidding process, Guwahati to Dhaka and Guwahati to Bangkok routes were awarded to SAO for operation of flights under UDAN International. The financial support is provided by the concerned State Government. Government of India would facilitate the implementation of UDAN International Scheme to enhance air connectivity from India to selected overseas destinations, on request of State Governments. Letter of Awards has been issued to selected airline and that airline commenced Guwahati - Dhaka sector from 1st July 2019 but same was stopped due to non-availability of passengers on this sector. Due to non-compliance of SAO Agreement, routes between Guwahati & Bangkok has been cancelled.

As per Winter Schedule - 2019 approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), following international flights are operating to/from North Eastern Region:

Airline	Route	Frequency
Druk Air	Paro - Bagdogra - Bangkok and vice-versa	2 per week
	Paro - Guwahati and vice-versa	2 per week
	Paro - Guwahati - Singapore and vice-versa	2 per week
Nok Air	Bangkok - Guwahati and vice-versa	2 per week

As per Winter Schedule - 2019 approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), following flights are operating between North Eastern Region and Gujarat:

Airline	Route	Frequency
SpiceJet	Ahmedabad - Bagdogra and vice-versa	6 per week
IndiGo	Ahmedabad - Bagdogra and vice-versa	7 per week
	Ahmedabad - Guwahati and vice-versa	7 per week

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