

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4987
(To be answered on the 25th March 2021)**

AIR CONNECTIVITY IN JHARKHAND

4987. SHRI SANJAY SETH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to give impetus to the air connectivity expansion programme in small cities across the country including Jharkhand;
(b) if so, the details of new efforts being made in this regard; and
(c) whether the Government has any proposal for air connectivity especially between Ranchi to Varanasi, Patna, Bhagalpur and other capitals of the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र पक्ष)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (c): 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 making air travel affordable to the masses. The primary objective of RCS is to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity by connecting unserved/underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes.

However, UDAN is a market driven mechanism. The interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit their proposals at the time of bidding under RCS - UDAN from time to time.

325 RCS routes have already operationalized connecting 49 RCS airports, 2 water aerodromes & 5 heliports so far. Airports Authority of India (AAI), the implementing agency, has identified four airports, namely, Bokaro, Dumka, Jamshedpur and Hazaribagh in the state of Jharkhand for development and operation of UDAN flights.

Air connectivity especially from Ranchi to Varanasi, Patna does not come under the purview of UDAN as these routes are non-RCS routes.

Bhagalpur Airport is available in RCS document. None of the airline have submitted proposal to operate RCS flights from Bhagalpur airstrip till 4th round of bidding under UDAN. However, if any bid is received in future rounds of bidding under UDAN, the same shall be considered as per the provisions of Scheme Document.