

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3025
(To be answered on the 16th December 2021)**

STEPS TO ENCOURAGE HELICOPTERS AND SMALLER AIRCRAFTS

3025. SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is any increase in regional air connectivity to encourage helicopters and smaller fixed wing aircraft services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details and the salient features of Airline Passengers Bill of Rights?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) & (b) Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. UDAN is market driven scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency, has awarded 948 routes under UDAN. Out of these 948 awarded routes, 403 UDAN routes have commenced connecting 65 UDAN airports including 2 water aerodromes & 8 heliports, as on 14.12.2021.

Helicopters & Category-1 (Passengers seating capacity 9 to 20 & 1A (less than 9-seater Fixed Wing aircraft) aircraft have been permitted under UDAN. However, the helicopter operation is permissible only in priority areas namely Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, North Eastern Region states and Andaman Nicobar island & Lakshadweep islands. AAI, the Implementing Agency awarded Helicopter routes involving 36 heliports in priority areas. Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) Operations (SAOs) have operationalized helicopter routes from eight Heliports namely Srinagar, New Tehri, Gaucher, Sahastradhara, Haldwani, Chinyalisaur, Mandi and Rampur under Non-Scheduled Operator Permit (NSOP) as on 14.12.2021. In addition, Ministry of Civil Aviation has released "Policy for Promotion of Helicopter Operations" to promote Helicopter operations in the Country.

(c): Passenger Charter was released on 27.02.2019 by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for general guidance and information on rules and rights that apply to an air traveler in an easy to understand format which is available on the website of Ministry of Civil Aviation. Passenger Charter primarily spells about the rules and rights of passengers inter-alia in case of flight delay, cancellation, diversion, medical emergency, lost, delayed or damaged baggage or cargo, etc. for efficient, fair and approachable air travel. All the airlines have been advised by DGCA to publicize and display passenger rights at conspicuous places.
