

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2785
(To be answered on the 12th December 2024)**

USAGE OF SEAPLANES TO BOOST CONNECTIVITY

2785. DR. SHASHI THAROOR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is true that the Government has explored the use of seaplanes to improve connectivity across the country particularly in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether the Government would consider exploring the use of seaplane operations in Kerala and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): The Government has issued 'Guidelines for Seaplane Operations in India' on 22.08.2024 to provide seamless and safe seaplane operations while enabling the citizens in remote areas to benefit from air connectivity under the RCS-UDAN scheme. The Guidelines allow operators to commence seaplane operations from water-aerodromes that have been developed in compliance with DGCA CAR Section 3 Series C Part IX 'Minimum Safety Requirements for Seaplane Operations'. UDAN Round 5.5 has been launched wherein interested airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, may submit their proposals to connect water-bodies at the time of bidding.

The Government of Kerala has proposed 14 locations, namely, Kovalam, Bolgatty, Kumarakom, Idukki Dam, Malampuzha, Banasura Sagar Dam, Kasaragod, Munnar, (Mattupetty Dam/Sengulam Dam), Karapuzha Dam, Valapattanam River, Muzhappilangad Drive in beach, Pazhassi Dam, Kakkayam Dam, Valiyaparamba back waters for inclusion in the list of waterbodies available for bidding under round 5.5 of the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN).
