

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 259
(To be answered on the 5th December 2019)

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME

*259. SHRI HANS RAJ HANS

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has drawn a road map for providing operations by airlines in remote areas of newly created Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) and if so, the details thereof; and
(b) the steps the Government proposes to take to strengthen airport infrastructure in these UTs?

ANSWER

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

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र पक्ष)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 259
REGARDING "REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME " TO BE ANSWERED
ON 05.12.2019**

(a): Ministry of Civil Aviation has 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. RCS - UDAN is 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. State Government of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) had signed tripartite agreement for implementation of RCS - UDAN in the State. There are thirteen unserved airports and one underserved airport in the Union Territories (UTs) of J&K and Ladakh available in the tentative list of underserved/unserved airports of RCS - UDAN scheme document for bidding by the interested airlines.

Details of the RCS - UDAN routes connecting UTs of J&K and Ladakh awarded to the Selected Airline Operators in 2nd & 3rd round of bidding, are attached as Annexure.

(b): Following steps have been taken to strengthen Airport infrastructure in these UTs:

- i) Extension of the runway at Jammu Airport by Airports Authority of India (AAI).**
- ii) Appointment of management consultant for preparation of detailed plan by AAI for expansion of existing terminal building at Srinagar Airport.**
- iii) AAI has taken up the matter regarding construction of new terminal building at Leh Airport with the cost of Rs. 480 crore.**
- iv) A pre-feasibility study has been carried out by multi-disciplinary team of AAI for development of Kargil Airport for civil operations suitable to operate Airbus 320 type of aircraft. AAI has also taken up the matter with International Civil Aviation Organization to further explore the feasibility of aircraft such as B-737 operations to Kargil Airport.**
- v) A pre-feasibility study has been carried out by AAI for development of Thoise Airport under RCS operations.**

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.259 FOR ANSWER ON 05.12.2019

Details of the routes connecting Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh awarded to the Selected Airline Operators in 2nd & 3rd round of bidding under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik):

Bidding round of RCS-UDAN	From	To	Operator	Commencement Status
2	Jammu	Bhatinda	Alliance	Commenced on 27-02-2018 Routes cancelled due to non-compliance of SAO Agreement by SAO. If any valid bid is received in future round of bidding under UDAN, same will be considered as per the scheme document.
	Kargil	Srinagar	MEHAIR	
	Srinagar	Kargil	MEHAIR	
3	Srinagar	Ambala	Zoom Air	As per the provisions of the scheme, Selected Airline Operator (SAO) is to start RCS operations within six months of signing the Agreement or within sixty days of readiness of airports, whichever is later. -- Commenced on 01-05-2019 Routes cancelled due to non-compliance of SAO Agreement by SAO. If any valid bid is received in future round of bidding under UDAN, same will be considered as per the scheme document.
	Jammu	Gwalior	Spicejet	
	Jammu	Kargil	Heritage	
	Kargil	Jammu	Heritage	
	Srinagar	Thoise	Heritage	
	Thoise	Chandigarh	Heritage	
	Thoise	Srinagar	Heritage	