

78 new routes identified under Phase 1 of UDAN 4.0

By TIOL News Service

NEW DELHI, SEPT 21, 2020: After three rounds of bidding under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), pre-COVID, 688 valid routes were awarded, out of which 281 routes were operationalized. After suspension of domestic flight operations from 20th March, 2020 to 24th May 2020, domestic air services including RCS operations have recommenced with effect from 25.05.2020. Airlines are resuming the commenced RCS routes in a calibrated manner. Further, 78 new routes have been identified and approved under 1st phase of UDAN 4.0. Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency is in the process of awarding these routes to the Selected Airline Operators (SAOs). Click here (Annexures-A and B) for details of the routes awarded and commenced under RCS-UDAN.

Some of the reasons for non-operationalization of few UDAN routes are:

- i) Lack of infrastructure at civil airports due to non-availability of land, delay related to compliance of the regulations by the airport operators, lack of road connectivity to the airports.
- ii) Non-completion of the process involved in obtaining Scheduled Commuter Operators Permit by the Airlines.

Due to COVID-19, commencement of civil work of airports got delayed. Also, due to suspension of domestic operations, overall commencement of new routes got adversely affected.

4th round of bidding has commenced on 3rd December, 2019. 100 airports/heliports/water aerodromes are to be developed by 2024, awarded in various rounds of bidding under RCS-UDAN.

This information was given in a written reply by Mr Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State, I/C, Civil Aviation, in Rajya Sabha today.