

## **Record of Discussions during Video Conferencing held on 19.08.2019 at 1530 Hours by HMOS, CA with the State Governments / UTs on Civil Aviation related issues.**

A Video Conferencing (VC) was held on 19.08.2019 at 1530 Hours by HMOS, CA with the State Governments/ UTs on Civil Aviation related issues.

List of Senior Officials of MoCA, BCAS, DGCA, State Governments, AAI and Air India who attended the meeting is given at **Annexure - 1**.

At the outset, HMOS, CA welcomed all the participants present during the VC and stated that the Video Conference is being held to seek suggestions, information and challenges faced by various State Governments/ UTs on Civil Aviation related issues to enhance air connectivity to various parts of the country.

The Representatives of Lakshadweep and Tripura did not attend the VC.

Record of discussions during VC with the representatives of State Governments / UTs and decisions there on are as under:

### **ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLAND ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **1. Greenfield Airport at Campbell Bay:**

The Greenfield Airport at Campbell Bay has strategic location. The representative of AAI informed that Survey Team of officers of AAI is to proceed for carrying out survey of the site. HMOS, CA directed AAI to conduct survey of site on priority.

#### **AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

Tendering action for OLS Survey is already completed; work was on hold for award due to administrative reasons. Go ahead for the work received vide letter dated 02.08.2019. Tenders validity is being extended for which consent from L-1 bidder is requested. The completion period for the work is 3 months from the date of award.

#### **2. New Greenfield Airport at Port Blair:**

It was intimated by AAI that A & N Administration has already paid an amount of Rs. 64.00 Lakhs to AAI as consultancy charges. AAI informed that five sites have been identified. One of the sites is suitable and 5000 Acres of land is required, AAI conducted Preliminary Survey and the Team of AAI is visiting for assessing expenditure. Representatives of AAI assured that survey report would be submitted by November, 2019 along with estimates.

HMOS, CA directed AAI to submit the survey report positively by November, 2019 along with estimates.

#### **AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

E-bids for appointment of consultant are invited. Date for opening of Financial Bid is 30.09.2019 on CPP portal (etenders.gov.in).

#### **3. Modernization of existing Helicopter Fleet:**

The A & N Administration intimated that 4 Dauphin N Helicopters are already positioned by M/s Pawan Hans Ltd. and as the load of these helicopters were less, it had requested

for deployment of One N3 Heavy Lift Helicopter and Three Medium Lift Helicopters, as an interim arrangement.

Representatives of PHL informed that the rates offered by M/s PHL for N3 Helicopter are less compared to the rate quoted by private helicopter operators.

The Chief Secretary stated that as it would entail expenditure of Rs. 70.00 to 100.00 Crores per annum, the Administration may be permitted the option to lease on long term basis from outside, if better offers are received. The Lt. Governor also informed that the existing capacity is not adequate and therefore, the present policy on this matter may be reviewed.

HMOS, CA advised MoCA and M/s PHL to review the policy and explore the options of modernization to meet the requirements of Island States. CMD, PHL was directed to take immediate action to address the current need of A&N Island Administration.

#### **4. Runway Resurfacing at Port Blair Airport:**

The Airport at Port Blair is owned by Indian Navy. As such, runway re-carpeting work will be carried out by Indian Navy. Secretary, CA advised AAI to start dialogue with Indian Navy to find out the technical difficulties including hand holding to prevent disruption in flights at Port Blair Airport and then take a call in the matter.

#### **AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

A meeting with Navy is being arranged to discuss the issue.

#### **5. International Air Connectivity to Port Blair:**

The Veer Savarkar International Airport at Port Blair was declared as an International Airport in the year 2007 and has all the required facilities in the form of infrastructure etc., including night landing facilities for operation of International flights. However, despite these facilities, International Airport operations at Port Blair are yet to commence.

HMOS, CA advised Secretary, CA to hold a meeting with the Airlines to facilitate starting of International Operations at Port Blair and the Airport Authority of India to consider the request for waiver of airport charges.

#### **6. Early start of flights under the UDAN 3.0:**

MoCA under UDAN-3 has awarded routes on 25.01.2019 to M/s Andaman Airways to connect Port Blair with airstrips at Car Nicobar, Campbell Bay and Shibpur with a target date of commencement of operations by July, 2019. However, the operator has approached RCS Cell, AAI for new/ additional requirements.

JS (UP), MoCA stated that Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) cannot demand or put conditions for any additional incentives after award of routes/ networks. JS (UP) further stated that the operator has promised to start operations by November, 2019 and if not found feasible, the routes awarded to them would be cancelled to place the same in UDAN-4.0.

HMOS, CA directed to make a quick assessment regarding capability / capacity of the operator and take suitable call in the matter at the earliest.

## **7. Early start of Seaplane service under the UDAN 3.1 and development of Water Aerodromes:**

M/s SpiceJet has been awarded for operations with Seaplane on 08.03.2019 on routes connecting Port Blair with Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Long Island under UDAN-3. The operation of Seaplane on these routes is to be expedited. It is, however, appraised that the Port Blair to Hutbay route has not been awarded under UDAN-3, though it was there in the initial proposal and the water aerodrome is being developed there. The route Port Blair - Hutbay being very important is required to be operationalised at the earliest.

As regards to development of Water Aerodromes, the Administration has agreed to provide land at the sites selected by AAI at 03 locations, namely Long Island, Shaheed Dweep and Hut Bay on which the work of development of Waterdromes is needed to be expedited by the AAI. Regarding the fourth site at Swaraj Dweep, the Administration is identifying a suitable site for the waterdrome in consultation with AAI.

JS (UP), MoCA stated that Water Aerodrome and Seaplane operations are totally new subject for AAI and MoCA. M/s SpiceJet has been awarded to carry out Seaplane Operations on routes connecting Port Blair with Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Long Island under UDAN-3. After awarding, the Airline cannot withdraw unilaterally as per the Scheme Document. However, MoCA will decide the matter on top priority and it is expected that the work for Water Aerodrome should start by November, 2019.

Member (Planning), AAI informed that Consultant to submit Technical Feasibility Study including Site Survey, Geotechnical, Investigation, Planning, Design, Drawing, Cost Estimation, Preparation of Tender Document/ NIT, Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) & EIA Study etc. for development of 10 Water Aerodromes at 10 different locations in the country has already been finalized by AAI and it is being sent to MoCA for in principle approval.

HMOS, CA directed that MoCA should make a quick assessment and take suitable action in the matter. It was also decided to initiate the seaplane operations under NSOP as an interim measure till the waterdromes is ready for operations under Schedule Commuter Operation (SCO). RCS Approval Committee to take necessary action.

### **AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

Work has been awarded for appointment of Consultant for Technical Feasibility Study including Site Survey, Geotechnical Investigation, Planning, Design, Drawing, Cost Estimation, Preparation of Tender Document / NIT, Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and EIA study for proposed development of Water Aerodromes at 10 locations in India. Proposed water aerodromes to be developed are:-

#### **Phase- I:**

1. Guwahati River Front (Assam)
2. Umrangso Reservoir (Assam)
3. Sabarmati River Front (Gujarat)
4. Shatrunjay Dam (Gujarat)
5. Statue of Unity (Gujarat)
6. Nagarjuna Sagar (Telangana)

## Phase-II:

7. Swaraj Island (A&N)
8. Shaheed Island (A&N)
9. Long Island (A&N)
10. Hutbay Island (A&N) is being changed to Prakasham Barrage (Andhra Pradesh).

State Governments requested MoCA to:

- a. Start at least NSOP operations for Helicopter and Seaplane as an interim measure.
- b. Developing of Heliports expeditiously with the help of PHL.
- c. Security and Fire Tenders to be procured centrally and provided to the States/UTs since States/ UTs do not have any expertise on such issues.

Secretary, Civil Aviation advised AAI to expedite the work and take Waterdrome Projects of A & N Administration also on priority.

### 8. Non Adherence to the time schedule by Airlines:

The Airlines are expected to operate scheduled flights to destinations as per the approved schedule (winter and summer Schedule) by the DGCA. However, in case of A & N Islands, it has been observed that the Airlines do not adhere to the approved schedule and discontinue operations. The details of flights which are currently suspended on Port Blair sector are as under:

S N	Name of the Airlines	Routes of Suspension	Date
1	Go Air	Ahmedabad - Bangalore - Port Blair - Bangalore – Ahmedabad	14/06/2019
2	Indigo	Bangalore - Port Blair – Bangalore	01/06/2019
		Kolkata - Port Blair – Kolkata	01/06/2019
		Hyderabad - Port Blair - Hyderabad	01/07/2019
3	Vistara	Chennai - Port Blair – Chennai	16/06/2019

Such withdrawal of scheduled flights have negative impact on the connectivity of Port Blair with major cities of the mainland causing severe inconvenience to the islanders and also adversely impact the tourism economy of the Islands.

HMOS, CA advised DGCA to issue necessary directions to the Airlines to ensure strict adherence of the allotted schedule and uninterrupted flight services.

### 9. Exorbitant airfares during peak season:

Representative of A & N Administration stated that air connectivity is the only means of travel to mainland. Every year, during the peak season from October to April, the airlines including Air India charge exorbitantly high airfare ranging from Rs.15000/- to Rs.25000/- for one way travel in economy class between Port Blair - Chennai / Kolkata. This peak season high airfare causes severe resentment amongst the islanders who have no other choice than to pay exorbitant airfare to visit mainland for various medical and social needs. There is an urgent need to rationalize the airfare in mainland - island sector by fixing an upper cap for the airfare in mainland - island sector.

HMOS, CA directed to carry out analysis of airfares being charged by the airlines through DGCA and share the findings with the A&N Administration. HMOS, CA further clarified that airlines are not allowed to charge airfare beyond the range displayed on their website.

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## **ARUNACHAL PRADESH:**

### **1. Operations of RCS Flights from Pasighat:**

Pasighat Airport has been upgraded to Category 5 from Category 4 and Alliance Air ATR-72 is operating at the airport regularly connecting Pasighat with Kolkata, Guwahati/Lilabari. Pasighat has also been selected under RCS (fixed wing) but operation is yet to start. It is requested that the operator be asked to start the same at the earliest.

JS (UP), MoCA stated that Pasighat is well connected with Kolkata and there are regular flights operating. RCS Cell may discuss with SAOs to start RCS operations on routes / networks awarded under RCS-UDAN at the earliest.

### **2. Funds for infrastructure development:**

For infrastructure development at selected RCS Heliports, the appointed Consultant Pawan Hans Ltd. has submitted DPRs for development of required infrastructures and licensing from regulatory authorities amounting to Rs. 23,24,95,008/-. Central Govt. may consider providing of required funds for infrastructure development in advance at the selected RCS Heliports as it would be difficult for a poor revenue State like Arunachal Pradesh to cater to the infrastructural development from its own resources.

JS (UP), MoCA stated that M/s PHL was appointed as the Consultant. However, a call is required to be taken whether services of M/s RITES Ltd. etc., a Public Sector PSU is taken for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), which would be done in four phases. The DPRs have already been prepared for few heliports and work is expected to be completed within short time for the remaining heliports.

Secretary, CA stated that State Government should explore this. However, Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh, requested for third party assistance for completion/execution of the project.

State Governments requested MoCA to:

- a. Start at least NSOP operations for Helicopter and Seaplane as an interim measure.
- b. Developing of Heliports expeditiously with the help of PHL.
- c. Security and Fire Tenders to be procured centrally and provided to the States/UTs since States/ UTs do not have any expertise on such issues.

HMOS, CA directed that Secretary, Civil Aviation will discuss the matter with the Stakeholders and send the Team of AAI, BCAS and DGCA Officials at the earliest to assist the States /UTs.

### **3. Operation of RCS flights from Tezu:**

Tezu Airport is ready for operation. The renovated old Terminal Building may be utilized for passenger facilitation till completion of new Terminal Building and RCS flights may be started from Tezu Airport at the earliest.

Member (Planning), AAI intimated that Tezu Airport is already licensed and new Terminal Building is expected to be ready shortly.

JS (UP), MoCA informed that two SAOs, M/s True Jet and M/s Zoom Air have already been awarded network to operate on flights from Tezu Airport. However, work on another awarded airport, i.e. Rupsi is in progress and it is likely to be completed by October / November, 2019. Thereafter, the flights should start on this network by end of December, 2019, hopefully. In case the flights do not start, Tezu and Rupsi will be included for bidding in round UDAN-4.0.

#### **4. Land for construction of approach road to Hollongi Airport:**

Land for construction of approach road to Hollongi Airport is yet to be acquired. The State Government had requested the AAI for conduct of a joint survey by AAI and Government of Arunachal Pradesh for re-alignment of the approach road and start of acquisition process. Hence, it is requested that AAI authorities may be directed to depute technical team for the said survey. Further, a PMC may be constituted to oversee the programme of work of Hollongi Airport.

Member (Planning), AAI intimated that the land for construction of approach road to Hollongi Airport is to be acquired by the State Government and it is expected that the process should be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. Once the land is acquired by the State Government and handed over to AAI, the work is expected to be completed by April, 2022.

#### **AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

AAI Team visited Itanagar on 17/18 July 2019 and a meeting was conducted on 18.07.2019 by DC, YUPIA, wherein decision with respect to relocation of electrical lines, water supply and electricity supply for New Greenfield Airport and re-alignment of approach road was discussed and a suitable alignment was finalized in consultation with State Govt. Further, action for land acquisition and construction of road is required to be taken up by State Govt.

Regarding work for construction of Green Field Airport at Hollongi, the process of engaging agency for execution of the project as EPC Contract is under process. Likely date for award of work is October, 2019 and project is likely to be completed by April, 2022.

#### **5. Helicopter Service from Ex-Dibrugarh has not started:**

Helicopter Service from Ex-Dibrugarh has not been able to start as State Govt. is waiting for response from Air India Ltd. regarding signing of contract for utilization of their Baggage Screening and SLPC facilities on payment basis. Air India Ltd. may be directed to finalize the signing of the final contract agreement which was submitted to them early this year so that helicopter operation may be started at Dibrugarh Airport at the earliest. The State Government also requested MoCA to explore Helicopter Service between Bhutan and Tawang.

Member (Planning), AAI informed that a team of AAI will be deputed to carry out survey at Tawang after receiving necessary inputs from the State Government.

Secretary, Civil Aviation advised MoCA to explore the possibility of Helicopter Service between Bhutan and Tawang to explore people to people contact and promotion of tourism.

## **AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

Team of AAI is expected to visit Tawang area for pre-feasibility study in 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> week of September, 2019, confirmation from State Govt. is awaited.

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## **ASSAM:**

### **(a) LGBI Airport, Guwahati:**

NOC for 22.56 Acres of land for Parallel Taxi Track (PTT) - taken up by AAI with Air Force Headquarters.

Member (Planning), AAI intimated that he is in regular touch with the Air Force Authorities for NOC to construct parallel Taxi Track at LGBI Airport, Guwahati. HMOS, CA desired a briefing on this issue so that he could speak with Chief of Air Staff, Air Head Quarters, Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi.

### **AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

With a steady increase in Passenger and Air Traffic, AAI has taken major infrastructure development work which includes construction of New Integrated Terminal Building, extension of new apron, New Technical Block cum ATC Tower etc. at LGBI Airport, Guwahati.

Presently, two separate aprons are operational which are being served by a single Runway leading to increase in runway occupancy time. This constraint is limiting its full operational capacity. To maximize runway capacity, there is an urgent requirement of PTT. AAI is in process of awarding the work for construction of Isolation Bay and PTT along with associated infrastructure work.

The matter regarding resolution of issues for land and working permission to AAI for taking up the pavement work on PTT and associated infrastructure at Guwahati Airport had been deliberated in various meetings with IAF to facilitate smooth operation of flights to/from Guwahati Airport.

#### **STATUS:**

AAI requested IAF vide letter dated 09.02.2018 & 08.10.2018 for grant of working permission.

AAI requested MOD vide letter dated 21.02.2019 with Technical Proposal for grant of working permission. A reminder was also sent on 06.08 2019.

### **(b) Dibrugarh Airport:**

The State Government stated that working permission/ right to access on the land under possession of Indian Army for diversion of Jungletoli Road is required. Representative of AAI informed that pursuant to discussion between IAF and State Government, it is expected that land would be handed over by next month.

HMOS, CA informed the State Government to pursue the matter with Ministry of Defence and send a Brief Note regarding this so that HMOS, CA could speak with the Ministry of Defence.

(c) **Water Aerodrome:**

Guwahati / Umrangsho / Kaziranga.

Member (Planning), AAI intimated that a Joint Team of officers of AAI, BCAS and DGCA has already carried out site inspection and submitted their report. Consultant has also been appointed and he has been given six months time to submit report.

State Governments requested MoCA to:

- a. Start at least NSOP operations for Helicopter and Seaplane as an interim measure.
- b. Developing of Heliports expeditiously with the help of PHL.
- c. Security and Fire Tenders to be procured centrally and provided to the States/UTs since States/ UTs do not have any expertise on such issues.

HMOS, CA advised that letter of award should be issued to the Consultant by 23.08.2019.

**AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

Appointment of Consultant for Technical Feasibility Study including Site Survey, Geotechnical Investigation, Planning, Design, Drawing, Cost Estimation, Preparation of Tender Document / NIT, Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) & EIA study for:

1. Guwahati River Front (Assam).
2. Umrangso Reservoir (Assam).

Work is awarded to the consultant. A Joint Team of AAI, BCAS & DGCA is planned to visit water aerodrome site around 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

(d) **Greenfield Airport:**

It was intimated by the State Government that District Collector (DC), Silchar has identified only 800 Acres of land for Greenfield Airport at Silchar, Assam. However, AAI is required to carry out survey for setting up of a Greenfield Airport at Silchar.

Member (Planning), AAI intimated that they have sought layout plan etc. from the State Government. On receipt of layout plan etc., Airport Director Guwahati will collect necessary data and send it to CHQ, AAI. After receipt of the necessary data, a team of officers of AAI, BCAS and DGCA will visit within 7 days.

**AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

State Govt. of Assam has identified a pocket of land at Khoreel Tea Estate at Silchar, Assam and has requested AAI to carry out Prefeasibility Study for setting up New Greenfield airport at the proposed site. AAI multi disciplinary team for site visit is formed and has requested State Govt. to provide required data like wind rose,

revenue map, coordinates, photographs, super imposed revenue map with geometrical data and coordinates etc. in detail along with study fee for prefeasibility study. Response of State Govt. is awaited.

(e) **UDAN International:**

The State Government requested for bidding of the remaining four routes viz. Guwahati to Kuala Lumpur, Yangon, Kathmandu and Hanoi.

JS (UP), MoCA informed that bidding for International UDAN to connect Guwahati with Kuala Lumpur, Yangon, Kathmandu and Hanoi is already in process and the date to receive bids has been further extended for another one week so that many airlines could submit their bids.

HMOS, CA intimated that Guwahati has already been provided International Connectivity with Dhaka and Guwahati to Bangkok flights will be started very soon by M/s Spice Jet Airlines.

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**DAMAN & DIU:**

1. **Operationalization of routes approved under UDAN 3.1:**

Heritage Aviation selected by the Ministry under UDAN 3.1 for flight operations between (i) Daman - Ahmedabad - Daman (ii) Diu - Surat - Diu and (iii) Daman - Diu - Daman. However, despite several attempts to contact the operator, the operator has not responded.

RCS Cell, AAI was requested to check the status of Daman Airport and take expeditious steps to make the airport ready for operations.

JS (UP), MoCA intimated that M/s Heritage Aviation have a plan to start their operations on the above said routes. However, if the operator does not start flights, MoCA would consider offering these routes for rebidding during UDAN-4.0.

2. **Use of Parking bay of Coast Guard Air station for embarkation & disembarkation of passengers:**

The UT Administration has initiated action for construction of Civil Terminal at Daman Coast Guard Air Station for which land acquisition has already been done. The DPR and detailed estimates have been finalized and submitted for technical sanction. Tender will be floated within fortnight. However, construction of Civil Terminal will take some time. The UT Administration has requested the Ministry of Defence for granting permission for access of ICG runway and Parking Bay for operationalizing civilian aircraft under UDAN from Indian Coast Guard Air Station, Daman till such time the construction of Civil Terminal is completed. Ministry of Civil Aviation is requested to take up the issue with Director General, Indian Coast Guard, Defence Ministry and help in this regard.

Secretary, Civil Aviation stated that MoCA would take up the matter with Defence Ministry.

**(Action: RCS Cell, AAI & DT Section, MoCA)**

### 3. **Inclusion of additional Routes/ Sectors under UDAN:**

The UT Administration of Daman and Diu desires to add an additional sector i.e., Diu - Vadodara - Diu. Therefore, proposal for additional routes under UDAN may be included.

JS (UP), MoCA stated that RCS Cell, AAI and MoCA would look into it for adding additional routes for Diu - Vadodara - Diu in bidding process of UDAN-4.0.

### 4. **Helicopter services under UDAN for Daman & Diu:**

There are many famous destinations like Dwarka Temple in Gujarat, Rajkot district of Gujarat which are nearby to Diu District and connecting them will boost tourism immensely. Further, Mumbai is also located near Daman District and connecting the two destinations will give boost to tourism as well industry sector. Therefore, the MoCA is requested to extend the possibility for operationalizing helicopter services under RCS-UDAN for the following sectors:

- i. Diu - Dwarka
- ii. Diu - Rajkot
- iii. Daman - Mumbai

JS (UP), MoCA stated that as per RCS-UDAN Scheme Document, Helicopter Services under UDAN are for Hilly Terrains and Island States mainly to cover inaccessible areas. As such, Helicopter Services under UDAN cannot be considered to above sectors.

However, M/s PHL may workout viability model as per the request made by the State/ UT Administration. In case, any additional incentives are offered by the Daman & Diu Administration, the airlines may come forward to provide Air Connectivity for these routes.

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## **MANIPUR:**

### 1. **RCS - UDAN-2:**

MoCA has selected PHL as Service Provider/ Consultant to provide helicopter service between Moreh - Tamenglong - Jiribam - Thanlon - Parbung. However, service has not started till date.

State Government informed that work has been initiated by the State PWD. Currently, M/s Global Vectra is about to start operations under MHA's Programme.

State Governments requested MoCA to:

- a. Start at least NSOP operations for Helicopter and Seaplane as an interim measure.
- b. Developing of Heliports expeditiously with the help of PHL.
- c. Security and Fire Tenders to be procured centrally and provided to the States/UTs since States/ UTs do not have any expertise on such issues.

Secretary, CA directed to take up the helicopter connectivity issue and RCS Cell, AAI should initiate the action without delay.

2. **Major Hurdles:**

Project cost per helipad is about 10-12 Crore. State Govt. has to complete civil works and procure Fire Fighting/ Communication / Metrological equipments etc. and funds will be reimbursed by MoCA after submission of APRs/Vouchers. However, due to financial crisis, State Government is not able to take up UDAN - 2 projects. MoCA may consider to release the requisite fund to start UDAN - 2 flights in advance in case of North East States.

Secretary, Civil Aviation intimated that work is required to be completed by the State Government through PWD and he assured the State Government that he will look into the matter after consultation with the officials of AAI and MoCA.

3. **Connectivity of Silchar - Imphal under RCS - UDAN-3:**

This is very important for air connectivity of Manipur and lower Assam. As such, air service may be provided at least on alternate days.

Secretary, Civil Aviation advised the State Government to reduce VAT on fuel below 5% so that the airlines might come forward to provide connectivity to Imphal.

With regard to connectivity on Silchar - Imphal Route, JS (UP), MoCA informed that during the UDAN-4.0 bidding process, MoCA and RCS Cell would like to provide connectivity to Silchar - Imphal and Imphal - Dibrugarh sectors in consultation with NEC / DoNER. JS (UP), MoCA advised the State Government to request NEC / DoNER to suggest 5-6 viable routes for NER to provide connectivity to Guwahati and Kolkata or Intra Region which could be offered to airlines for bidding during UDAN-4.0. These routes should be considered on Priority Basis under UDAN-4.0.

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**MEGHALAYA:**

1. **Baljek Airport:**

The Baljek Airport in West Garo Hills, Tura although completed and inaugurated way back in 2008 has remained non-functional till date. The State Government has communicated to Airports Authority of India for signing of MoU to make the Airport operational.

Secretary, Civil Aviation stated the State Government that the Baljek Airport is only suitable for 20 seater aircraft operations. It will be better to carry out the survey of the airport for its extension so that bigger aircraft up to 80 seats could land and take a final call in the matter.

**AAI Comments (Planning Directorate):**

Obstacle Limiting Surfaces (OLS) Survey for extension of Runway at Tura Airport is carried out and reports are under preparation after preparation of charts and identification of Obstacles, if any. State Govt. shall be informed accordingly.

The development of airport shall require an additional land of 56.5 Acres free from all in cumbrances to be handed over to AAI.

## 2. **Shillong (Umroi) Airport:**

Introduction of direct flight between Shillong (Umroi) and Delhi.

It was intimated by the State Government that flights between Umroi Airport, Shillong and Kolkata have started by M/s Indigo Airlines w.e.f. 20 July, 2019. However, MoCA is requested to provide direct connectivity to Delhi. They also requested other connectivity within NER to cater the need of the region.

JS (UP), MoCA stated that RCS-Cell would explore the possibility for bids from airlines of cancelled routes in 4th round of bidding under RCS-UDAN and routes recommended by North Eastern Council (NEC).

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## **MIZORAM:**

1. Improvement of Air Connectivity to Lengpui Airport, by increasing the number of flights preferably under Regional Connectivity Scheme. Service may be introduced between Delhi - Aizawl - Delhi and Guwahati - Aizawl - Guwahati.

JS (UP), MoCA stated that airlines were called to provide additional Air Connectivity to Lengpui Airport under RCS-UDAN. However, since the length of the runway is limited and suitable only for operations upto 20 seater aircraft, airlines did not come forward. It would be better that the State Governments considers to increase the length of the existing runway to at least 10000 feet so that bigger aircraft could land at Lengpui to provide sufficient air connectivity.

JS (UP), MoCA further suggested that in case the airlines are given some kind of concessions like reducing VAT on ATF, reduced landing and parking charges etc., the airlines could come forward to provide better connectivity to Lengpui airport.

With regard to additional flights for Delhi – Aizawl – Delhi and Guwahati – Aizawl – Guwahati sectors, JS (UP), MoCA informed that earlier Aizawl airport was served airport, not underserved airport. Accordingly, Aizawl could not be included under the list of RCS airports. Subsequently, since the number of flights to Aizawl airport has reduced, the same will be brought under RCS category and considered for bidding process during forth coming RCS-UDAN-4.0. Guwahati to Aizawl connectivity could be considered immediately.

HMOS, CA advised the State Government to reduce the VAT on ATF and provide concessions/ incentives to the airlines so that airlines could consider additional flights for Aizawl airport.

HMOS, CA also advised the State Governments to call a meeting of all airlines for providing connectivity to Mizoram.

2. Large Airfare Disparity in Air India between Sectors in the North Eastern Region.

With regard to Airfare Disparity in Air India airfares between various sectors in NER, it was intimated by the representative of M/s Air India that the Cap Airfare for NER sector as indicated on the Air India website is Rs. 9000/- and the minimum airfare is Rs. 3000/-. So, depending upon demand and advance bookings, the airfare fluctuates between Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 9000/-, which is considered very reasonable as per the practice followed by the airline companies all over the world.

HMOS, CA advised the State Government to make a written complaint to DGCA as well as the Secretary, Civil Aviation/ HMOS, CA office in case of any specific disparity in airfare on a particular route. RCS Cell, AAI was directed to take up the Priority Routes under UDAN/ NER Subsidy Scheme so that the need of the region could be addressed.

State Governments requested MoCA to:

- a. Start at least NSOP operations for Helicopter and Seaplane as an interim measure.
- b. Developing of Heliports expeditiously with the help of PHL.
- c. Security and Fire Tenders to be procured centrally and provided to the States/UTs since States/ UTs do not have any expertise on such issues.

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## **NAGALAND:**

### **1. Construction of Greenfield Airport at Kohima - Ceithu Airport.**

Hon'ble CM of Nagaland intimated that Green Field Airport at Ceithu Airport at Kohima should be developed since State Government has purchased land for the Airport Project. In case required, the State Government is in position to purchase additional land for development of airport. However, the cost for development of Ceithu Airport is approximately Rs. 6000/- Crore. But, there are financial constraints for the State Government to bear this cost. As such, MoCA or the Central Government should provide financial support for this.

HMOS, CA advised that State Government should prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) in this regard and examine the matter at their level. Thereafter, the State Government should send the proposal to MoCA, which may be examined and a Concept Paper should be prepared and circulated to all concerned within 7 days. Thereafter, Cabinet Note will be prepared and put up for approval by the Cabinet since the amount of funds involved is very high.

### **2.**

- (a). Development of airstrips for operation of small aircraft to boost regional air connectivity.
- (b). Helipads in all District Headquarters to provide helicopter service for Disaster Management.
- (c). Heliport at Dimapur for Helicopter Service.
- (d). Improving the air connectivity to facilitate faster economic growth, cargo transportation, tourism etc.
- (e). Direct air service from Dimapur to Delhi and Vice Versa since stopover at Kolkata is inadequate.

Hon'ble CM of Nagaland intimated that Sun sets early in Nagaland and Sun rise is also quite early. As such, Helipads should be developed at each District Headquarters to provide Helicopter Service for Disaster Management etc.

JS (UP), MoCA intimated that UDAN is a Demand Driven Scheme, in which, the airlines are required to bid for a particular route depending upon traffic growth potential for air connectivity. However, MoCA may appeal to the airlines to come forward and provide better connectivity to the State Government. During the forthcoming UDAN-4.0 bidding process, RCS Cell and MoCA will include Dimapur - Guwahati - Dimapur, Dimapur - Dibrugarh - Dimapur and Dimapur - Imphal - Dimapur routes.

#### **LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION:**

The representatives of Lakshadweep could not attend the VC meeting. However, UT Administration has sent the following suggestions to MoCA for consideration:

- a. Start at least NSOP operations for Helicopter and Seaplane as an interim measure.
- b. Developing of Heliports expeditiously with the help of PHL.
- c. Security and Fire Tenders to be procured centrally and provided to the States/UTs since States/ UTs do not have any expertise on such issues.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair and all the participants.

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**Member who attended Video Conferencing held on 19.08.2019 at 1530 Hours by HMOS (IC), CA with the State Governments / UTs on Civil Aviation related issues.**

<b>S N</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
1.	<b>Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson</b>	<b>Minister of State (IC) for Civil Aviation</b>	<b>Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)</b>
2.	Shri Neiphiu Rio	Chief Minister	Govt. of Nagaland
3.	Shri Zoramthanga	Chief Minister	Govt. of Mizoram
4.	Shri C. Lalramzauva	Adviser to CM of Mizoram	Govt. of Mizoram
5.	Shri P S Kharola	Secretary	MoCA
6.	Shri Lalnunmawia Chuaungo	Chief Secretary	Govt. of Mizoram
7.	Admiral D.K. Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.),	Lt. Governor	A&N Administration
8.	Shri Chetan B. Sanghi	Chief Secretary	A&N Administration
9.	Smt. Usha Padhee	Joint Secretary	MoCA
		CMD	M/s Pawan Hans Limited
10.	Shri Anuj Aggarwal	Chairman and Member (HR)	Airports Authority of India
11.	Shri Rajeev Jain	ADG (M&C)	MoCA
12.	Shri D.C. Sharma	Deputy Director General	DGCA
13.	Shri Manoj Kr. Garg	Deputy Director (Ops)	DGCA
14.	Shri A. M. Tiwari	Deputy Director General	BCAS
15.	Shri A. K. Pathak	Member (Planning)	Airports Authority of India
16.	Smt. K. L. Sharma	Director	MoCA
17.	Shri Ajay Yadav	Director and PS to HMoS (IC), CA	MoCA
18.	Shri U. K. Bhardwaj	Under Secretary	MoCA
19.	Smt. Punitha S.	Deputy Director (M&C)	MoCA
20.	Shri S. N. Dwivedi	RCS Consultant	MoCA
21.	Capt. Raj K. Mallik	ED, RCS	Airports Authority of India
22.	Shri Pradeep Kumar	GM (RCS Cell)	Airports Authority of India
23.	Shri Rambabu Ch.	General Manager	Air India
24.	Shri Bhupesh Pillai	Section Officer	MoCA
25.	Shri Avinav Tiwari	Assistant Section Officer	MoCA
26.	Shri M. S. Boora	GM & OSD to CMD	M/s Pawan Hans Limited
27.	Shri Vanraj Dodiya	GM (BD & Marketing)	M/s Pawan Hans Limited