

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 3529**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023)

**STATUS OF UDAN SCHEME**

3529. DR. ANIL JAIN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of UDAN Scheme and persons/airlines who have been given financial incentive under this scheme;
- (b) the benefits available to the passengers under the said scheme; and
- (c) whether the number of air passengers have increased due to the UDAN Scheme?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (c): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and making air travel affordable to the masses.

Promoting affordability of regional air connectivity is envisioned under UDAN by supporting Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) through concessions by Central Government, State Governments/UTs and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes and providing financial (Viability Gap Funding or VGF) support to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such UDAN routes.

Fourteen (14) Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) have been given VGF and other concessions for operations of UDAN flights under the scheme so far. Affordable airfares and air connectivity to unserved & underserved aerodromes is provided under the UDAN Scheme. Under the UDAN Scheme, the Government has targeted an indicative airfare at Rs. 2500 for a distance of 500 km to 600 km per RCS seat under Regional Connectivity routes (equivalent to one-hour flight). Selected Airline Operator is required to provide upto 50% of the aircraft seating capacity or maximum 40 seats, whichever is lower, as Seats in a fixed wing aircraft under UDAN. This airfare is subject to indexation as per the formula specified in the

UDAN Scheme document.

More than 116 Lakh people have availed benefit under the UDAN scheme since its inception. VGF (Viability Gap Funding) amount of around Rs. 2454 crore has been released to Selected Airline Operators as on 07.03.2023 for the operation of UDAN flights across the country.

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