

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 353
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th February 2023)**

DEMAND STUDY ON BUSIEST AIR ROUTES

353. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR

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

- (a) whether the Ministry had conducted demand study on busiest air routes within India and from India to international destinations;
- (b) if so, the details of such routes identified within India and from India to international destinations;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to increase the flight connectivity; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (d): No such study has been carried out by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). After repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation market has been deregulated. Consequently, airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type for selecting whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate with compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government across the country. Thus, it is up to the airlines to provide air services to/from any airport in the country depending on their operational and commercial viability. The Ministry of Civil Aviation regularly interacts with the airlines to promote air connectivity.

Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. Under the UDAN scheme connectivity is enhanced by reviving unserved and underserved airports and by giving 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.

As on 31.01.2023, 461 routes have commenced with 73 unserved /underserved airports including 9 Heliports & 2 water aerodromes operationalised under UDAN.
