

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 189
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7th August 2023)

ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES OF UDAN

*189. DR. FAUZIA KHAN

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

- (a) whether Government has achieved the objective for which Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Scheme was launched, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has set any target to achieve under the UDAN Scheme for the next five years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to achieve the target; and
- (d) the present status of implementation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN in the State of Maharashtra?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 189 REGARDING "ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES OF UDAN" TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

(a): The Government launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) in October 2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country for making air travel affordable to the masses through revival of the existing airstrips and airports. The aim of the scheme is to bring air connectivity to Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities, by taking up existing airstrips which are identified through UDAN bidding rounds, for development and upgradation under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme. To achieve this objective the scheme envisages (1) concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes / other support measures and (2) financial (Viability Gap Funding, VGF) support to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such routes. On the basis of four rounds of bidding under UDAN, 479 routes have commenced connecting 74 unserved and underserved airports (including 9 heliports & 02 water aerodromes). More than 124 lakh passengers have flown in over 2.34 lakh RCS flights so far.

(b) & (c): The Government has set a target to operationalise 1000 UDAN routes during the currency of the scheme and to revive/develop 100 unserved and underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes in the country by 2024 for operation of UDAN flights. Subsequently, in the Budget 2023-24, it has been decided to revive 50 additional Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodrome for improving regional air connectivity.

UDAN is an market driven ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. UDAN Bidding Round 5.0 has recently concluded wherein 148 routes have been awarded. UDAN Round 5.1 and 5.2 are underway, to identify more routes and connect more airports.

(d): In the state of Maharashtra, six (06) Airports, namely, Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Nanded, Nasik, Gondia and Sindhudurg connecting 67 Routes have been operationalised under RCS-UDAN.
