

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1610
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th December 2023)

MAKING AIR TRAVEL AFFORDABLE FOR ALL

1610. SHRI RAM SHAKAL

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

- (a) the progress made by Government in making air travel affordable for rich and common people alike in the wake of completion of six years of UDAN scheme; and
(b) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) & (b): Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN seeks to provide connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country at affordable rates to the masses. 517 routes connecting 76 airports, including 9 Heliports & 2 Water Aerodromes, have so far commenced operations. More than 131 lakh people have so far availed benefits under the UDAN Scheme.

Viability Gap Funding (VGF) amounting to Rs. 3087 Crores has been disbursed to the Selected Airline Operators as of 30.11.2023. An expenditure of Rs. 3751 Crores has so far been incurred towards development of airports under the "Revival/Development of unserved and underserved Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodromes" Scheme.

With a view to enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters, UDAN 5.1 has been launched. The ongoing UDAN 5.2 seeks to enhance connectivity through small aircraft.
