

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 673
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29th July 2024)

STATUS OF UDAN SCHEME

673. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI

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

- (a) the present status of routes awarded under UDAN Scheme and the reasons for some of the routes ceasing operations;
- (b) the number of greenfield airports sanctioned and the number out of them operational ;
- (c) whether a number of airports have not been operationalized ;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to operationalize all the approved flight routes issued under UDAN Scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) At present, 579 routes connecting 85 airports, including 13 heliports and 02 water aerodromes, have been operationalised under the UDAN Scheme. Some of the routes have discontinued due to various reasons which include Selected Airline Operator discontinuing the operations after completing the prescribed three-year tenure due to low Passenger Load factor, shutdown of airlines, low visibility at VFR airports etc.

(b) to (d) Govt. of India has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of 21 new Greenfield Airports across the country. Out of these, 12 Greenfield airports have been operationalised in the last ten years.

Reasons for occasional delay in developing / operationalising the airports include:

1. Delay due to land unavailability.
2. Technical and operational constraints at certain airports
3. Delay in obtaining Scheduled Commuter Operators Permit by new entrant Airlines.
4. Other issues such as non-availability of suitable aircraft, aircraft leasing issues, maintenance issues of small aircraft etc.

(e) Government has taken the following initiatives to ensure operationalisation of the routes under UDAN:

(i) Periodic review with all stakeholders i.e State & UT Governments, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airlines, IMD, AAI, Ministry of Environment & Forest for removal of bottlenecks.

(ii) Non Scheduled Operations (NSOP) in fixed wing (including seaplanes) and helicopters, has been allowed.
