

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2268**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024)

**AIR CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION**

2268. SMT S. PHANGNON KONYAK

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

- (a) the specific measures taken by Government to improve air connectivity in the North Eastern Region, to ensure better accessibility for passengers and businesses; and
- (b) Government's plan to expand regional connectivity through the Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme to enhance air travel to remote areas in the North Eastern Region?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): The Central Government, with a view to achieve better connectivity of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country including North-Eastern Region (NER), Hilly Areas and Islands including Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, introduced Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG), which mandates the airline operators to deploy a minimum specific capacity to routes connecting to as well as within NER, Hilly States & Islands.

To improve the air connectivity in the North - Eastern Region, the Government under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), has developed unserved and underserved airports in the region and RCS flights were operationalised on 90 routes connecting 9 airports and 2 heliports namely Rupsi, Tezu, Pasighat, Jorhat, Lilabari, Shillong, Pakyong, Hollongi, Dimapur, Jiribam (H) and Tamenglong (H).

The Government also provides VGF to Alliance Air for operating under the scheme of "VGF to Alliance Air for NER Operations" and "VGF to Alliance Air for Operating with Dornier-228 Aircraft" to operate in six States in the North Eastern Region namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland with ATR 72 and Dornier 228 Aircraft.

UDAN is an market-driven ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. Interested

airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of UDAN operations, is developed under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme.

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