

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 660
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2nd December 2024)**

EXTENSION OF RCS SCHEME

660. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO

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

- (a) elaborate on the proposed timeline for the extension of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) beyond its initial 10-year period;
- (b) factors that led to the decision to extend the scheme; and
- (c) whether the specific measures will be implemented to ensure that airlines continue to operate on RCS routes beyond the three-year subsidy period?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

- (a): The proposal to extend RCS-UDAN Scheme, launched on 21.10.2016 , is under consideration of the Government.
- (b): The scheme has succeeded in enhancing the remote and regional connectivity by operationalising 86 unserved and underserved airports (including 13 heliports and 2 water aerodromes) through 609 Routes (till 25.11.24) benefiting more than 146 lakh domestic passengers through 2.86 Lakh RCS flights and the potential for further enhancement of affordable regional connectivity to unserved airstrips in the remote corners of the country, are some of the factors taken into account for the above consideration.
- (c): UDAN is a market driven scheme wherein interested airline operators bid for routes as per their own assessment of demand and feasibility, and routes are awarded with VGF support for three year period from date of commencement. The continuity of route beyond the three year period is decided by the airline based on commercial viability and operational considerations.
