

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 242
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th March 2025
UNDERSERVED/UNSERVED ROUTES UNDER UDAN
SCHEME

242. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) details of the State-wise routes under UDAN scheme remaining underserved or unserved by private airlines despite the funds sanctioned for its implementation, along with details of the amount sanctioned and utilized so far;**
- (b) timeline set for achieving the scheme's targets and the progress made in terms of operational routes;**
- (c) mechanisms in place to evaluate operational challenges faced by private airlines on UDAN routes, and steps taken to overcome the same; and**
- (d) measures being taken to ensure the scheme achieves its core objective of equitable air connectivity for underserved regions, while preventing airlines from prioritizing only profitable routes?**

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242 FOR REPLY ON 24.03.2025 REGARDING UNDERSERVED/UNSERVED

ROUTES UNDER UDAN SCHEME ASKED BY DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

(a): State-wise details of non-operational Airports and routes therefrom under RCS is attached at Annexure.

(b) The Government launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) on 21.10.2016 for a period of 10 years. So far, 625 RCS routes connecting 88 unserved and underserved airports (including 13 heliports & 02 water aerodromes) have been operationalised under the Scheme.

(c): To identify operational challenges, the Government conducts periodic review with all stakeholders i.e State & UT Governments, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airlines, and AAI. There are various operational challenges viz. low passenger demand, low visibility, challenges related to availability of slots, ATC watch hours & availability of aircraft. To overcome these issues the Government is increasingly adopting technologies like Special VFR, IFR and RNP procedures, coordinates with airports and constructively engages with all stakeholders.

Further, in order to improve long term sustainability of routes under the UDAN Scheme, the following approach is adopted:

1.To leverage the expertise of the relevant State Government in their respective regions, they have been requested to identify and prioritize high-potential aerodromes that can be developed and operationalised. This initiative aims to ensure a more efficient and strategic approach to the expansion of aviation infrastructure, capitalizing on local knowledge and available resources.

2. In order to further increase the routes operationalised viz a viz the routes awarded, airlines have been asked to submit business plans for timely operationalisation, prior to the award of the route. The Implementing Agency has also been publishing the list of prioritized aerodromes that are ready or ready within 6 months. Finally, eligible routes that were discontinued in the past rounds due to various reasons such as airline failure, have also been re-bid, awarded and operationalised in the subsequent rounds. This is an evolving process.

(d): RCS - UDAN is a market driven scheme which envisages providing connectivity to unserved and underserved airports of the country through demand based bidding process. To ensure equitable air connectivity, the scheme ensures that routes are not awarded disproportionately for a particular region and to a particular operator. Since the commencement of the UDAN scheme more than 149 lakhs passengers have benefitted by travelling in over 2.97 lakh RCS flights covering 32 States/UTs.

Details of Non-Operational Airports developed under RCS

S.N.	State	Airport	Exp. on airports till 28 th Feb'25 (INR Cr)	RCS Routes to be operationalized / restarted	Remarks
1.	Gujarat	Porbandar	36.59	Nil	Eligible for future round of bidding.
2.	Haryana	Hissar	35.65	Nil	
3.	Karnataka	Bidar	12.29	Nil	
4.	Punjab	Pathankot	5.12	Nil	
5.	Sikkim	Pakyong	178.40	Nil	
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Kushinagar	107.35	Saharanpur [#]	
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh	31.03	Lucknow, Kanpur [#] , Hindon [#]	All routes connecting to Lucknow have been suspended due to the ongoing runway recarpeting at the airport.
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh	28.37	Lucknow	
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakot	32.73	Lucknow, Kanpur [#] , Prayagraj [#] , Varanasi [#] , Khajuraho [#]	
10	Uttar Pradesh	Shravasti	31.85	Lucknow, Kanpur [#] , Prayagraj [#] , Varanasi [#]	
11	Uttar Pradesh	Moradabad	29.96	Lucknow, Kanpur [#] , Hindon [#] , Saharanpur [#] , Dehradun [#]	

[#] Routes yet to be operationalized.