

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1763**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

**UDAN SCHEME**

1763. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR

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

- (a) the current status of the modified UDAN scheme aimed at enhancing regional connectivity to 120 new destinations, as announced in the Union Budget 2025-26;
- (b) the measures taken to address the financial challenges faced by regional airlines under this scheme;
- (c) the pending infrastructure developments at major airports to accommodate increased passenger traffic; and
- (d) the steps implemented to ensure safety and compliance in the rapidly expanding aviation sector?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) The government has recently announced plan for a modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new underserved and unserved destinations and to cater to 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts. The Scheme is presently at formulation stage.

(b) The Scheme provides financial incentives to airline operators on regional routes that include: Concessions by the Central Government, State Governments/ Union Territories and airport operators to reduce airline operation costs and also the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to bridge the gap between operational costs and expected revenues on such routes. Airlines have to undertake their own demand feasibility and financial projections and bid for networks accordingly under the scheme.

(c) Modernisation and development of infrastructure facilities at the existing airports is a continuous process, which is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or the Airport Operators/Developers concerned depending upon traffic demand, commercial feasibility, operational requirements for safety of aircraft

operation and demand from airlines etc. Development works are taken up in a phased manner depending upon availability of land and viability, as well as other facilities with reference to intended aircraft operations.

(d) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the safety regulator of the country, has implemented several measures to bolster aviation safety. These include:

DGCA maintains a robust safety oversight system, to monitor compliance with Rules and Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs). This process includes routine surveillance, spot checks, regulatory and special audits.

DGCA publishes an Annual Surveillance Plan (ASP) to guide surveillance and spot checks across various technical areas.

Findings from audits, surveillance activities, and spot checks are rigorously followed up with the concerned operators. Compliance with corrective actions is verified, and observations are closed only after thorough review. Subsequent audits and surveillances also check the ongoing effectiveness of these actions.

Accident and incident data are regularly analyzed. Based on the analysis, safety information and recommendations are disseminated through Safety Circulars and advisories.

Recommendations from accident and incident investigation reports are implemented to address identified safety gaps and prevent similar incidents.

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