

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2561
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th March 2025)**

EXPANSION OF REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA

2561. SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ

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

- (a) the details of airports in the State of Odisha covered under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme;
- (b) the number of new air routes sanctioned for the State under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS-UDAN);
- (c) the challenges faced in implementing UDAN flights in the State of Odisha and steps taken to address them; and
- (d) whether Government has any plans to connect smaller cities and tourist destinations in the State via air transport?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN, four (04) airports in the State of Odisha- namely, Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Utkela, and Jeypore have been operationalised. Additionally, Rangeilunda, Amarda, and Rairangpur (Dandabose) airstrips in Odisha have been identified for development under the UDAN scheme.

Development work at Rangeilunda is currently underway by the State Government. The development work at Amarda Airport and Rairangpur Airport owned by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the State Government respectively is currently in the planning stage.

(b): A total of thirty-two (32) routes have been operationalized under the scheme, and six (6) more routes have been awarded for operating RCS flights in Odisha.

(c): According to the provisions of the scheme, the responsibility for providing land for airport development, free of cost and free from all encumbrances, lies with the respective State Government. The actual timeline for airport projects depend upon various factors such as land acquisition, mandatory clearances, removal of obstacles, etc.

(d): Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN is a demand-driven ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. Based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, interested airlines submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. Revival / up-gradation of unserved and underserved airports is undertaken upon its identification through valid bid and award to the Selected Airline Operator (SAO). The following airstrips in Odisha are available in the list of unserved airstrips in the UDAN documents, namely - Angul, Barbil, Birasal, Gudari, Hirakund, Jayakpur, Lanjigarh, Nawapara, Padampur, Raisuan, Sukinda, Theruboli, Tushra, Malkangiri, Baripada & Konark.
