

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2575  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025)**

**NUMBER OF NEW REGIONAL AIRPORTS AND AIR ROUTES UNDER  
UDAN**

2575. SHRI HARIS BEERAN  
SMT RANJEET RANJAN

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

- (a) the number of new regional airports and air routes operationalised under the UDAN scheme in 2024-25;
- (b) the financial assistance extended to airlines and airport operators for improving regional air connectivity; and
- (c) the challenges faced in ensuring the long-term financial viability of UDAN routes and the steps being taken to address them?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

- (a): During the year 2024-25, till date 66 RCS routes, 4 airports & 2 heliports have been operationalised under the UDAN scheme.
- (b): To improve the regional air connectivity, the UDAN 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, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to bridge the gap between operational costs and expected revenues on such routes.
- (c): The long-term financial viability of UDAN routes faces several challenges, including demand fluctuations, high operational costs, weather disruptions, airport slot constraints, low passenger demand and airline consolidation. In order to improve long term sustainability of the routes and to address these issues, the government provides viability gap funding (VGF) to airlines, supports the upgrading of regional airports, and encourages operational flexibility. Further, eligible routes that were discontinued in the past rounds due to various reasons such as airline failure, have also been re-bid, awarded and operationalized in the subsequent rounds.

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