

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 7
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st July 2025)**

TRANSFORMING THE INDIAN AVIATION SECTOR

***7. SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH**

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

- (a) the number of airports, heliports and water aerodromes currently operational in the country and the details regarding the increase in their number thereof during the last three years;
- (b) the number of operational routes and total number of passengers during the year 2024-25;
- (c) the measures taken by Government so far to make air travel more accessible for the common man; and
- (d) the latest initiatives taken by Government to modernize and expand the airport infrastructure as per global standards?

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. 7 FOR REPLY ON 21.07.2025 REGARDING TRANSFORMING THE INDIAN AVIATION SECTOR ASKED BY SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

(a) & (b): Presently, there are 162 operational airports, including 13 Heliports and 02 Water Aerodromes in India. Since 2022, 15 new airports, including 4 Heliports, have been developed and operationalised in the country.

According to the Summer Schedule 2025 of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), 129 airports have scheduled operations. 16.55 Crore domestic passengers and 7.39 Crore International Passengers have traveled during 2024-25.

(c): The Government launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN scheme on 21-10-2016 to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by reviving unserved and underserved airports in Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities. 637 RCS routes connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports have been operationalised across the country under the Scheme. More than 153 lakh domestic passengers have traveled on over 3.1 lakh RCS flights under the Scheme.

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 so as to make air travel affordable under the scheme.

(d): 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 the availability of land and viability, as well as other facilities with reference to intended aircraft operations.
