

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 100
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st July 2025)**

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME - UDAN IN GUJARAT

100. SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA

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

- (a) the role of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme in providing affordable air travel and promoting balanced regional development across the country;
- (b) the number of new routes launched under the UDAN Scheme so far, and whether Government plans to add new destinations in the upcoming phases, including cities like Rajkot in Gujarat; and
- (c) whether Government intends to prioritize the inclusion of remote, hilly, and aspirational districts—particularly in the North Eastern Region—under future UDAN phases; and
- (d) if so, the details of such planned expansions, including proposed districts and timelines?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): The Government launched the RCS-UDAN Scheme on 21.10.2016 with an aim to take flying to the masses by making it affordable, convenient and sustainable air travel for passengers with access to various parts of India. The scheme is working as a catalyst in establishing an integrated eco-system which is leading to significant growth of the civil aviation sector which in turn is also promoting tourism, increasing employment and leading to balanced regional growth across the country.

Since the commencement of the RCS-UDAN scheme, 637 RCS routes have been operationalized, connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country. Under the UDAN Scheme, 153.59 lakh domestic passengers have travelled in more than 3.14 lakh RCS flights as on July 15, 2025.

Rajkot (Hirasar) is a served Airport as per the provisions of the UDAN Scheme.

However, routes connecting underserved/unserved airstrips to Rajkot (Hirasar) will be eligible for bidding under the UDAN Scheme.

The government has recently announced the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country including Gujarat 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.
