

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1612
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th August 2025)**

BOOSTING AIR CONNECTIVITY IN THE STATE OF H.P.

1612. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan of setting up of new heli taxi under UDAN scheme to boost connectivity and tourism in the State of Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government will expedite upgradation of Gaggal airport to accommodate larger aircraft, ensure safer operations in all weather conditions and also to initiate direct flight services to Ahmedabad and Mumbai, if so the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government plans to adopt bottom-up approach where every hilly area of State will get at least one helicopter emergency medical services in the State of Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b) : Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), 32 RCS routes connecting 4 airports / heliports namely Shimla, Kullu, Rampur (H) and Mandi (H) have been operationalised in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

The Government has recently announced the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country including Himachal Pradesh 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.

(c) : At the request of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, Airports Authority of India(AAI) has prepared a proposal for the expansion of the existing Gaggal airport, for which 369.82 acres of land has been requested from the State Government. Expansion of Kangra(Gaggal) airport is planned for operation of 4C type of aircraft under Instrument Flight Rules(IFR) conditions. The expansion and

development of airport depends upon the availability of land, financial viability and as well as other facilities related to intended aircraft operations.

With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic aviation has been fully deregulated. Airlines are free to select markets and routes, induct any aircraft type, and operate in compliance with the Routes Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) issued by the government. Therefore, the decision to introduce air services by any airline to or from any airport including Gaggal depends on the operational and commercial viability.

(d) : No such plan is under consideration in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
