

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2404
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th August 2025)**

**REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL
PRADESH**

2404. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR

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

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to introduce special Visual Flight Rules (VFR) operations to reduce minimum visibility criteria to ensure operation of flights during reduced visibility conditions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to provide second apron at Shimla airport to support multiple flight operations from Shimla airport, if so, efforts taken in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to sanction additional heliports under RCS Udan phase 2 to increase the flight operations and boost air connectivity in the State of Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): At present, there are three operational airports in the state of Himachal Pradesh, namely Kangra (Gaggal), Kullu-Manali (Bhuntar) and Shimla. All of these airports are licensed for Visual Flight Rules (VFR) operations.

No such proposal for Special VFR operations at any of these airports has been received by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh. However, AAI has established a control zone and an approach control unit for facilitating Special VFR operations at Kullu-Manali airport. Furthermore, AAI has requested Indian Air Force for the assignment of airspace around Kangra Airport to AAI, and for execution of the necessary Letters of Agreement to enable establishment of a control zone and an approach control unit for facilitating Special VFR operations at Kangra Airport.

(c): Efforts have been undertaken by AAI to explore the feasibility for an

additional Apron at Shimla Airport in order to enable simultaneous use of two parking bays.

(d): 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.
