

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2416
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th August 2025)**

**DEVELOPMENT OF CHHARRA AIRFIELD INTO A FULL-FLEDGED
AIRPORT**

2416. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

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

- (a) whether Government has initiated any plans to upgrade the World War II-era Chharra Airfield in Purulia district of West Bengal into a full-fledged commercial airport;
- (b) if so, the current status of these plans, including any feasibility studies, technical assessments, or detailed project reports that have been conducted;
- (c) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been involved in the planning and development process, and if so, the extent of their involvement; and
- (d) whether the State Government has submitted a formal proposal to the Central Government for this development, and if so, the detail status of that proposal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): On the request of the State Government of West Bengal, Airports Authority of India (AAI) carried out a Pre-feasibility study in 2023 for development of an airport at Chharra and submitted the report to the State Government.

Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country. UDAN is a demand-driven scheme and revival/upgradation of unserved & underserved airports is done upon its identification through a valid bid and award to the SAO (Selected Airline Operator).

If the State Government requests for inclusion of the Chharra airstrip under the UDAN scheme, it may be considered for inclusion in future rounds of bidding.
