

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2426
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th August 2025)**

SUSTAINED OPERATION OF FLIGHTS UNDER UDAN

2426. SHRI JAGGESH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that significant progress has been made under the UDAN scheme, especially concerning connectivity to remote and regional areas;
- (b) the number of routes awarded under the UDAN scheme and number of routes on which operations have commenced, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any specific measures to ensure the sustained operation of flights on these UDAN routes;
- (d) whether Government is planning to introduce more routes under the UDAN scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and the other steps taken by Government to strengthen the regional connectivity, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): Since the commencement of Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN) 915 valid RCS routes have been awarded out of which 637 RCS routes have been operationalised, connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country. More than 153 lakhs domestic passengers have travelled through RCS-UDAN in more than 3.14 lakh RCS flights.

(c) to (e): In order to ensure uninterrupted flight operations on these routes, the government provides viability gap funding (VGF) to airlines, supports the upgrading of regional airports, and encourages operational flexibility. Further, routes that were discontinued in the past rounds are also re-bid, awarded and operationalised in subsequent rounds. Further, steps such as increased adoption of technologies like Special Visual Flight Rules and Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) standards at feasible airports for all-weather operations have also been taken. 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.
