

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 818  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025)**

**PLAN TO ADD NEW DESTINATIONS UNDER THE RCS-UDAN**

818.     **SHRI MAHENDRA BHATT**

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

- (a) the role of UDAN scheme in providing affordable air travel and promoting balanced regional development;
- (b) the new routes launched so far under the scheme and whether Government has any plans to add new destinations under the scheme; and
- (c) whether the remote hill districts of the State of Uttarakhand has been given priority in Government's plan, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the RCS-UDAN scheme on October 21, 2016, to improve air connectivity to underserved and unserved regions. The scheme promotes affordable air travel by capping airfares on select seats and offering Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to airlines to bridge gap between operational costs and expected revenues. It also provides financial incentives and concessions to the airlines from the Central and State Governments, Union Territories, and airport operators to lower operational costs and support regional routes.

Since the commencement of the scheme, 637 RCS routes have been operationalised, connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country. By bringing Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities onto the national aviation map, UDAN has significantly reduced travel time and improved accessibility for both residents, businesses and enhanced tourism.

In the State of Uttarakhand, 60 RCS routes have been operationalised, connecting 13 airports/heliports.

The Government has announced the launch of the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations and cater to 4 crore

passengers over the next 10 years. To further enhance regional air connectivity, particularly for underserved and unserved areas, the scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational, and North East Region districts.

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