

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 821
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th July 2025)

PERFORMANCE OF UDAN SCHEME

821. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI

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

- (a) whether a number of approved routes under UDAN Scheme did not take off by 2023;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of routes operational at present and the amount spent on the scheme;
- (d) whether a number of airlines are struggling to sustain operations after Government's three year subsidy period;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the reasons for a number of airports falling into disuse;
- (g) whether Government proposes to revise its regional air connectivity scheme emphasizing airport readiness before seeking airline bids; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): Out of 915 valid RCS routes awarded till date, 637 RCS routes have been operationalised connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes.

The remaining routes are yet to commence due to the following reasons:

1. Delay in the development of the airport due to land unavailability.
2. Technical and operational constraints at certain airports
3. Delay in obtaining the relevant Operators Permit by new entrant Airlines.
4. Other issues such as non-availability of suitable aircraft, aircraft leasing & maintenance issues etc.

Since the launch of the Scheme, Rs.4160 crore has been disbursed to airlines as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and Rs.4604 crore has been spent on revival/upgradation of airports/heliports/water-aerodromes.

(d) to (f): RCS-UDAN is a market-driven scheme promoting air connectivity to unserved routes with 3-year Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support. Some routes become non-operational after the subsidy ends due to factors like airline closures, aircraft shortages, and low passenger demand. Similarly, airports may fall into disuse if connecting routes are discontinued. A large number of routes continue commercially post the 3-year VGF tenure. In addition, discontinued routes are offered for rebidding to restore connectivity.

(g) & (h): The Government has announced the modified UDAN Scheme aims to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations and cater to 4 crore passengers in 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.
