

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 830  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025)**

**AIR CONNECTIVITY TO REMOTE AREAS**

830. SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ

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

- (a) whether Government has identified new air routes under UDAN in the State of Odisha and Northeast;
- (b) if so, the details of proposed and operational routes;
- (c) budget allocation for UDAN in current fiscal;
- (d) whether there are plans to upgrade existing airstrips in tribal regions; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure affordability and safety in regional flights?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) on 21.10.2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and make air travel affordable to the masses. RCS-UDAN is a demand-driven ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. Based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, interested airlines submit their proposals at the time of bidding. Valid bids are evaluated and awarded for operationalisation of Routes under the Scheme.

A total of 32 routes in Odisha and 90 routes in North Eastern region (NER) have been operationalised under RCS.

(c): The budget allocated for the RCS-UDAN in FY 2025-26 is Rs.300 Crore.

(d): RCS-UDAN aims to bring air connectivity to Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities, including tribal areas, by taking up existing airstrips which are identified through UDAN bidding rounds for development and upgradation under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme.

(e): The RCS Scheme promotes affordable air travel by capping airfares on select

seats and offering Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to airlines to bridge the 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.

Further, the DGCA ensures aviation safety through a robust oversight system, including regular surveillance, spot checks, and audits. It follows an Annual Surveillance Plan (ASP) for inspections and ensures that audit findings are addressed with verified corrective actions. Follow-up audits check the effectiveness of these measures, while accident and incident data are analyzed to identify trends and enhance safety.

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