

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 860
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th July 2025)**

**REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY FOR DISASTER-PRONE AREAS AND
TRIBAL REGIONS**

860. **SHRI DHAIRYASHIL MOHAN PATIL**

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

- (a) whether Government recognizes the significant role of airports in disaster management and relief operations particularly for vulnerable areas like Konkan in the State of Maharashtra;
- (c) whether Government proposes to start dedicated helicopter services or seaplane operations for areas with geographical limitations; and
- (d) the measures proposed to link airport development with the objectives of disaster preparedness and social inclusion in the States which are vulnerable to natural disasters?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): Airports, including heliports and water aerodromes, serve as vital infrastructure during natural calamities and emergencies by enabling the swift deployment of relief personnel, transportation of essential supplies and medical aid, and evacuation of affected individuals.

To enhance regional air connectivity and provide critical access to remote and underserved areas, the Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) on 21st October 2016. The scheme aims to make air travel affordable, convenient, and accessible to the common citizen, while also promoting the development of an integrated aviation ecosystem that supports disaster response and social inclusion. Since the commencement of the scheme, 637 RCS routes have been operationalized connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country.

In the State of Maharashtra, eight airports namely Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Nanded, Nasik, Gondia, Sindhudurg, Solapur and Amravati have already been developed

under the UDAN Scheme.

The objectives of disaster preparedness and social inclusion are inherently addressed under the UDAN scheme, as it focuses on enhancing air connectivity in remote and underserved regions.
