

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 29
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st December 2025)**

AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH

29. SHRI CHANDRAKANT DAMODAR HANDORE

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

- (a) the initiatives being taken to modernize and expand airport infrastructure, including the development of new airports at specific locations like Palghar or Pachmarhi;
- (b) manner in which Government is supporting regional connectivity under the RCS-UDAN scheme, including the development of unserved/underserved airports;
- (c) the number of operational airports, heliports, and water aerodromes, and the status of their growth;
- (d) the number of operational routes and passenger numbers for the year 2024-25; and
- (e) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Airport infrastructure development is undertaken periodically based on passenger demand, safety requirements, airline interest, land availability and financial viability. No proposal for a Greenfield airport at Palghar has been received under the Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008. Under the RCS-UDAN scheme, Pachmarhi airstrip was identified for the development and operation of RCS flights. However, there has been no progress due to a pending NGT (Central Zone) case since December 2022.

(b) & (c): RCS-UDAN is an ongoing market-driven scheme with periodic bidding to connect unserved and underserved airstrips. Valid bids by airlines are awarded for the operationalisation of routes under the Scheme post-readiness of airports. Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support and various concessions are provided to Airline Operators to incentivise their participation and ensure affordability. Airstrips identified under the Scheme are taken up for development under the 'Revival of unserved/ underserved airstrips scheme'.

Since the commencement of RCS-UDAN 93 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country have been operationalised. More than 157 lakhs domestic passengers have travelled through RCS-UDAN flights connecting these airports.

(d) & (e): As on 01.04.2024, 289 Routes were operational & during FY 2024-25, 66 new routes were operationalised and around 14.1 lakh passengers travelled on RCS flights.
