

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 37
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st December 2025)**

**STRENGTHENING AIR CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN
HIMACHAL PRADESH**

37. **SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to strengthen air travel connectivity in the State of Himachal Pradesh to promote tourism, trade and accessibility in hilly regions;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed for modernization and expansion of existing airports including Shimla, Kullu-Bhuntar and Kangra-Gaggal;
- (c) whether Government plans to increase the frequency of flights and improve terminal, parking and passenger facilities at these airports; and
- (d) the details of the time-schedule and financial provisions made for carrying out these corrective measures?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), 32 RCS routes connecting 4 airports/heliports, namely Shimla, Kullu, Rampur (H), and Mandi (H), have been operationalised in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

The Government has recently announced the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, including Himachal Pradesh, and to cater to 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational, and North East region districts.

(b): At the request of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, Airports Authority of India(AAI) has prepared a proposal for the expansion of the existing Gaggal airport, for which 369.82 acres of land have been requested from the State Government. Expansion of Kangra(Gaggal) airport is planned for the operation of 4C-type aircraft under Instrument Flight Rules(IFR) conditions. The expansion and development of an airport depends upon the availability of land, financial viability,

and as well as other facilities related to intended aircraft operations.

(c) & (d): The expansion and development of infrastructure at airports is a continuous process and is undertaken from time to time depending on the passenger demand forecast, operation requirements for safety of aircraft operations, and demand from airlines, depending on the availability of land, financial viability, and as well as other facilities related to intended aircraft operations.

Airlines plan their domestic flight schedule on a specific route/city based on market demand, commercial feasibility, and their company policy.
