

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 53
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st December 2025)**

REVIVAL OF NON-OPERATIONAL AIRPORTS UNDER UDAN

53. SHRI RAVI CHANDRA VADDIRAJU:

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

- (a) current status of Government's proposal to provide financial incentives to airlines for operating flights from non-operational or under-utilised airports;
- (b) whether this initiative is part of the revised UDAN scheme;
- (c) estimated budget and implementation mechanism proposed for the same; and
- (d) whether Government will place on record the list of airports that have remained idle or recorded zero passenger traffic during the last two years and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

- (a): 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. As on date, an amount of Rs. 4,352 crore has been disbursed to support the Selected Airline Operators in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under the scheme.
- (b) & (c): The Government has announced the launch of the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, to cater to 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. The scheme is currently at the formulation stage.
- (d): Pathankot and Kushinagar airports, operationalised under the UDAN Scheme, have remained non-operational during the last two years due to various reasons, such as completion of the three-year VGF tenure of the operationalised routes, poor visibility conditions, aircraft shortage, etc.
