

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1765
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9th March 2026

AIRPORT CONNECTIVITY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

1765. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR

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

- (a) the measures that are being taken to install Advanced Landing Systems at Shimla (Jubbarhatti) and Kullu-Bhuntar airports to reduce flight cancellations due to foggy weather;
- (b) the progress of four new heliports in Jaskot (Hamirpur), Rakkar, Palampur and Chamba which were expected to be completed by March-April 2026;
- (c) whether Government is planning to introduce special Heli-Tourism circuits in 2026 to connect Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur and Pangi areas with major airport hubs; and
- (d) the steps that are being taken to address infrastructural constraints and technical manpower shortages reported at regional airports in the State of Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Expansion and upgradation of airports including the installation of Instrument Landing System (ILS) is a continuous process undertaken from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand / willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports.

(b) to (d): Under the UDAN scheme, nine helipads namely, Shimla (Sanjoli), Baddi, Manali, Mandi, Rampur, Reckong Peo, Palampur (Un), Rakkar, and Chamba have been identified in the state of Himachal Pradesh for development and operation of RCS flights. A total of 38 RCS routes have been operationalised, connecting 06 (six) aerodromes namely Shimla, Kullu, Rampur (Heliport), Mandi (Heliport), Reckong Peo (Heliport) & Sanjoli (Heliport) in the State. Jaskot helipad has not been identified under the UDAN scheme.

To address the requirement of technical manpower at regional airports in Himachal Pradesh, adequate steps are taken from time to time by the Airports Authority of India to ensure adequate staffing, operational safety and continuity of services. CNS manpower is deployed at airports as per the AAI RCS Policy, depending upon the availability of CNS/ATM facilities and the operational hours of the respective stations.
