

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 184**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2nd February 2026**  
**INCREASING AIR CONNECTIVITY**

184. **SHRI TEJVEER SINGH**

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

- (a) the details of the concrete steps taken by Government in recent years to promote regional air connectivity in the country;
- (b) the details of recently launched policies/programmes related to the civil aviation sector, including the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme; and
- (c) the number of new airports/heliports made operational so far under these initiatives and their impact on regional development?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): The Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) was launched in 2016 with the objective of enhancing regional air connectivity to remote and unserved areas of the country through a demand based bidding mechanism that incentivizes airlines to connect unserved/underserved airstrips in the country. Under the Scheme, 657 RCS routes have been operationalised, connecting 93 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes as on 20.01.2026.

Under the Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008, Government of India (GoI) has accorded "InPrinciple" approval for setting up of 24 Greenfield Airports across the country. Out of these, 13 Greenfield airports have been operationalised so far.

UDAN has strengthened unserved and underserved regions of the country by improving connectivity, accessibility boosting industry tourism & hospitality, enhancing access to healthcare, and generating direct & indirect employment across aviation and allied sectors.

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