

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 185

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2nd February 2026

**REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME (UDAN) - PERFORMANCE
AND VIABILITY**

185. SHRI A. D. SINGH

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

- (a) total number of routes sanctioned, operationalized and discontinued under the UDAN Scheme during last five years;
- (b) funds released and utilized under the Viability Gap Funding component during the last five years; and
- (c) the reasons for discontinuation or poor performance of certain routes, particularly in hilly and North-Eastern Regions and the corrective measures proposed to improve route viability?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Under Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCSUDAN), 360 routes have been operationalised since 01.01.2021.

An amount of Rs.3306 Crores has been disbursed in last five years to support the Selected Airline Operators.

Operations on a few routes, including routes connecting North East regions, have been discontinued due to factors such as poor visibility conditions, restriction of operations to daytime at VFR-only airports, shortage of aircraft, leasing issues, temporary discontinuation by airlines and low passenger load factors.

In order to ensure uninterrupted flight operations on certain routes, particularly in hilly and North-Eastern Regions, the government provides viability gap funding (VGF) to airlines, supports the upgrading of regional airports, and encourages operational flexibility. Further, routes that were discontinued in the past rounds are also rebid, awarded and operationalised in subsequent rounds. Further, steps such as increased adoption of technologies like Special Visual Flight Rules and Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) standards at feasible airports for all-weather operations have also been taken.

The Government has recently announced the launch of the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, 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.
