

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 187

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2nd February 2026

UDAN SCHEME AUDIT FINDING AND ROUTE SUSTAINABILITY

187. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR

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

- (a) the total number of routes sanctioned, operationalised and discontinued under the UDAN Scheme since inception;
- (b) the cumulative viability gap funding released till date and the average subsidy per route; and
- (c) whether Government has examined the observations made by the CAG on route discontinuation and long-term sustainability and the corrective steps taken?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Since the commencement of the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), a total of 923 valid RCS routes have been awarded, out of which 657 routes have been operationalised as on 20.01.2026, connecting 93 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the nation.

An amount of Rs. 4494 crores has been disbursed towards Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to support the Selected Airline Operators. The UDAN scheme offers financial incentives to airlines through Central/State Government and airport operator concessions, along with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to cover cost-revenue gaps. Airfares for VGF-supported RCS seats are capped at subsidized rates for three years, with quarterly indexation. These measures enhance affordability, accessibility, and passenger convenience, supporting regional connectivity and economic growth.

In order to improve long term sustainability of connectivity under the UDAN Scheme, the following approach is adopted:

1.To leverage the expertise of the relevant State Government in their respective regions, they have been requested to identify and prioritize high-potential aerodromes that can be developed and operationalized.

2. Airlines have been asked to submit business plans for timely operationalization, prior to the award of the route. The Implementing Agency has also been publishing the list of prioritized aerodromes that are ready or likely to be ready.

Further, eligible routes that were discontinued in the past rounds due to various reasons such as airline failure, have also been re-bid, awarded and operationalized in the subsequent rounds.

Airports and routes under the UDAN Scheme are reviewed regularly based on passenger load factors, airline interest, operational readiness, and financial sustainability.
