

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2563**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16th March 2026**

**EXPANSION OF REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA**

2563. SMT MAMATA MOHANTA

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

- (a) whether UDAN scheme expansion has improved regional air connectivity in the State of Odisha, including nearby regions serving Mayurbhanj district;
- (b) whether additional airports, heliports or air connectivity infrastructure are proposed to improve access for aspirational and tribal districts; and
- (c) the steps taken to strengthen regional connectivity, tourism and economic development in such regions?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), Jharsuguda, Jeypore, Rourkela and Utkela airports have been developed and operationalised in the state of Odisha. Additionally, Rangeilunda in Berhampur district, Amarda and Rairangpur (Dandabose) airstrips in Mayurbhanj district have been identified for development to support RCS flights. A total of 32 RCS routes have been operationalised in the State of Odisha under the UDAN Scheme and an amount of Rs. 215 crore has been disbursed as Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

RCS-UDAN has boosted regional economic growth by improving connectivity in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, fostering tourism, trade, employment, and inclusive development across remote and underserved regions.

To further strengthen and expand regional air connectivity, 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 will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts.

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