

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2573
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16th March 2026

EXPANSION OF UDAN AND REMOTE ACCESS

2573. SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM
SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN
SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA
SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE
SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY

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

- (a) whether Government has met its target of operationalising 100 unserved or underserved airports by early 2026;
- (b) roadmap and targets fixed for next phase of expansion of unserved and underserved airports, including timelines and proposed locations;
- (c) manner in which increase in the UDAN budgetary allocation in the FY 2026-27 be utilised to enhance last-mile connectivity in the North East;
- (d) whether Government has finalised the Seaplane Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme to promote tourism in island territories and coastal regions;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) manner in which the Central Government is coordinating with State Governments to ensure that newly inaugurated terminals like those in Satna and Thoothukudh remain commercially viable?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN, as on 28.02.2026, 663 routes connecting 95 unserved and underserved airports (including 17 heliports and 2 water aerodromes) have been operationalised.

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. The scheme is presently at the approval stage.

(d) & (e): The Government has recently announced the introduction of a Seaplane VGF Scheme to provide support for Seaplane operations. The scheme is currently at formulation stage.

(f): Development and upgradation of airport infrastructure, including construction of new terminal buildings, is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India and other airport developers based on traffic demand and future growth projections. Operation of scheduled air services from any airport, including newly inaugurated terminals such as Satna and Thoothukudi, is a commercial decision of the airlines depending upon operational and commercial viability.
