

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. : 230

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th August 2026

**CIVIL AVIATION SCHEMES, PROJECT DELAYS AND EMPLOYMENT
GENERATION IN J AND K**

230. SHRI GULAM ALI

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

- (a) the scheme-wise details of implementation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN, UDAN 5.0, Krishi UDAN, Digi Yatra and airport infrastructure development projects in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;
- (b) the district-wise status of Jammu, Srinagar, Udhampur and Kishtwar airport projects, including reasons for delays and revised completion timelines;
- (c) the employment generated, directly and indirectly, through airports, airlines, ground handling, tourism and allied sectors; and
- (d) whether new regional routes, heliports and aviation training facilities are proposed for Jammu and Kashmir to enhance connectivity, tourism and youth employment?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 230 FOR REPLY ON 10.08.2026 REGARDING 'CIVIL AVIATION SCHEMES, PROJECT DELAYS AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN J AND K' ASKED BY SHRI GULAM ALI.

(a) & (b): Since the inception of the UDAN Scheme, 679 RCS routes connecting 95 unserved and underserved airports (including 17 heliports and 02 water aerodromes) have been operationalised across the country. During the 2nd round of bidding under the UDAN Scheme, the Jammu-Bathinda and Jammu-Gwalior RCS routes were operationalised in 2018 and 2019, respectively. An amount of Rs. 39.86 crore has been disbursed as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for these routes.

Digi Yatra has been implemented at Jammu and Srinagar airports on 29.03.2026.

At Jammu airport, a dedicated Air Cargo Terminal in an area of 680 sqm with annual handling capacity of 24,800 MT & at Srinagar airport a dedicated Air Cargo Terminal in an area of 1,125 sqm with annual handling capacity of 41,000 MT with cold storage facility and an International air cargo facility in an area of 480 sqm with annual handling capacity of 8,700 MT have been established. Both Jammu and Srinagar airports are covered under the Krishi UDAN Scheme.

The construction of terminal building is in progress at Jammu airport. The Cabinet approval for Rs. 1667 Crore has been granted for the construction of the New Integrated Terminal Building and Allied Works (Extension of Apron, Residential Quarters for AAI Staff, CISF Barracks) at Srinagar Airport. The development of the interim terminal building at Udhampur is in the planning stage. No project has been taken up at Kishtwar.

(c) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) study titled 'Economic Benefits of Civil Aviation: Ripples of Prosperity', shows that the air connectivity has an economic multiplier of 3.25 and employment multiplier of 6.1

(d) The Government has launched the next phase of the UDAN Scheme on 04.07.2026 for a period of ten years, from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36, with a total outlay of Rs 28,840 crore, including development of 100 airports from existing unserved airstrips with an outlay of Rs. 12,159 crore and Rs. 3,661 crore for

development of 200 heliports in Hilly, North-Eastern and Aspirational (HINER) areas

The UDAN scheme primarily aims at strengthening the unserved and underserved regions by improving connectivity and accessibility, boosting tourism and industry, enhancing access to healthcare, and generating direct and indirect employment.

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