

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 7
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July 2026
CURRENT STATUS OF UDAN SCHEME

7. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) the current status of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme in enhancing regional connectivity across the country;
- (b) the number of new airports and heliports operationalized under this scheme during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government plans to introduce new flight routes from recently upgraded Tier-2 and Tier-3 city airports;
- (d) the details of the financial assistance and viability gap funding extended to airlines on unserved routes; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure affordable airfares for common citizens?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 7 FOR REPLY ON 20.07.2026 REGARDING 'CURRENT STATUS OF UDAN SCHEME' ASKED BY DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL.

(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. Further, 21 airports, including heliports, have been developed/operationalised under the Scheme during the last three years.

(c): The next phase of the UDAN Scheme was launched on 4th July 2026, to promote regional connectivity, targeting 120 new destinations and 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years.

Further, with the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, the Indian aviation sector has been fully deregulated, and airlines are free to operate flights and deploy capacity on routes based on their commercial viability and market considerations.

(d): Since the inception of the UDAN Scheme, a total of Rs. 4881 crore has been disbursed as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to the Selected Airline Operators (SAOs).

(e): The steps taken to ensure affordable airfare under the UDAN Scheme include:

(i) Provision of financial incentives to airline operators on regional routes such as: Concessions by the Central Government, State Governments/ Union Territories and airport operators to reduce airline operation costs and also the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to bridge the gap between operational costs and expected revenues on such routes.

(ii) Commitment of around 50% of the seats as RCS seats (limited to 40 seats) on RCS flights by airlines.

(iii) Airfare cap on RCS seats for which VGF is provided to Airline operators.
