

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1608

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026

**HELIPORT CONNECTIVITY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH UNDER UDAN-
RCS**

1608. SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN

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

- (a) whether the Central Government is aware of the status of heliport routes operationalized in the State of Himachal Pradesh under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN);
- (b) if so, the route-wise details thereof along with their present operational status and the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) sanctioned and disbursed during the last three years;
- (c) whether any UDAN heliport routes proposed/awarded for the State of Himachal Pradesh have been discontinued or remain non-operational, and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Central Government to enhance heliport connectivity under UDAN in the hill districts of the State?

ANSWER

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

(a): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), RCS helicopter operations have commenced from Rampur, Mandi, Reckong Peo and Shimla (Sanjoli) helipads in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(b): The route-wise operational status of RCS helicopter routes in the State of Himachal Pradesh is provided at Annexure.

An amount of Rs.26.83 crore, Rs.15.96 crore and Rs.12.74 crore has been disbursed as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for operation of RCS helicopter routes in the State during the financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, respectively.

(c): Discontinuation of operation of any helicopter routes is primarily a commercial decision of the operators, based on the economic and operational viability of the route and other associated factors. In addition, factors such as completion of the

three-year Viability Gap Funding (VGF) period, poor visibility conditions, shortage of aircraft, leasing-related issues and low passenger load factors have also contributed to discontinuation of certain routes.

(d): The Government has taken several measures to enhance heliport connectivity in the hill districts of Himachal Pradesh under the UDAN scheme. These include development and upgradation of heliport infrastructure, operationalisation of new RCS heliport routes through competitive bidding, provision of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to Selected Airline Operators (SAOs), and close coordination with the State Government and other stakeholders.

The next phase of the UDAN scheme envisages development of 200 modern helipads with a total outlay of Rs. 3661 Cr. in priority areas where air connectivity gaps remain significant including in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Annexure**Helicopter routes operationalized under RCS – UDAN**

S. N.	FW/H/W	Departure	Arrival	Operator
1.	Helicopter	Reckong Peo (H)	Shimla (Sanjauli) (H)	Heritage
2.	Helicopter	Shimla (Sanjauli) (H)	Reckong Peo (H)	Heritage
3.	Helicopter	Kullu	Shimla (Sanjauli) (H)	Heritage
4.	Helicopter	Shimla (Sanjauli) (H)	Kullu	Heritage
5.	Helicopter	Shimla (Sanjauli) (H)	Chandigarh	Pawan Hans
6.	Helicopter	Chandigarh	Shimla (Sanjauli) (H)	Pawan Hans
7.	Helicopter	Chandigarh	Mandi (H)	Heritage
8.	Helicopter	Mandi (H)	Chandigarh	Heritage