

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1616
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026
EXPANSION OF THE UDAN IN REMOTE TRIBAL AND
ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

1616. SHRI PRADIP KUMAR VARMA

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

- (a) whether Government has adopted a special strategy to expand air connectivity in the country's remote, tribal and aspirational districts under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN);
- (b) if so, the number of airports, heliports and water aerodromes made operational in the country since the inception of the scheme;
- (c) whether the Central Government has prepared any proposal to expand air connectivity and introduce new routes in eastern India, particularly in the State of Jharkhand under the upcoming phase of the UDAN scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) was launched in 2016 with the objective of enhancing regional air connectivity to remote and unserved areas of the country through a demand based bidding mechanism that incentivizes airlines to connect unserved/underserved airstrips in the country. As on 20.07.2026, a total of 679 RCS routes connecting 95 unserved and underserved airports, including 17 heliports and 02 water aerodromes, have been operationalised across the country under the UDAN Scheme.

The next phase of the UDAN Scheme has been launched on 04.07.2026 to promote regional air connectivity in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and remote regions across the country including Jharkhand, targeting 120 new destinations and 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. The Scheme is being implemented from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 with an outlay of Rs. 28,840 crore, including Rs. 12,159

crore for Aerodrome development and Rs. 3,661 crore for development of 200 heliports in Hilly, North-Eastern and Aspirational (HINER) States/districts.
