

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2413
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th August 2026
ACHIEVEMENTS OF UDAN-1 SCHEME

2413. SHRI GOVINDBHAI LALJIBHAI DHOLAKIA

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

- (a) the achievements of the UDAN-1 scheme;
- (b) the issues and challenges faced in respect of the routes and airports under UDAN-1 scheme that are presently non-operational and the steps being taken by Government to address these issues;
- (c) Government's plan to operationalise the airports and routes under UDAN-1 scheme that are currently non-operational; and
- (d) the number of helipads and airports proposed to be developed across the country under UDAN-2 scheme during the year 2026-27?

ANSWER

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

(a): As on 10.07.2026, 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, benefiting over 168 lakh passengers through more than 3.58 lakh RCS flights.

The Scheme has significantly improved regional air connectivity, enhanced access to remote and underserved regions, promoted tourism, trade and employment and provided affordable air travel to citizens.

(b) & (c): The routes and airports under the UDAN Scheme that are presently non-operational have been affected due to factors such as 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.

Eligible non-operational routes are made available for rebidding in subsequent rounds of the UDAN Scheme to facilitate selection of new airline operators based on prevailing demand and operational feasibility. Further, the next phase of the

UDAN Scheme incorporates a longer VGF mechanism extending up to five years, progressively tapered to enable airlines to transition towards commercially sustainable operations.

(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.
