

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 819
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27th July 2026
UDAN SCHEME IN TAMIL NADU

819. SHRI P. WILSON

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that despite multiple rounds of UDAN bidding, a large number of routes sanctioned for the State of Tamil Nadu remain non-operational or have been discontinued, if so the reasons thereof;
- (b) the details of routes operationalised, discontinued and pending commencement in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last five years, airport-wise;
- (c) the details of financial support provided to airlines and airports under the scheme during the last five years, State-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken to improve regional air connectivity, increase flight frequency and strengthen airport infrastructure in underserved districts?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): In the State of Tamil Nadu, 26 routes have been operationalised under the RCS-UDAN Scheme. Of these, 18 routes are currently operational, while the remaining 08 routes have been discontinued.

Discontinuation of operation of any flight between cities in the country is primarily a commercial decision of the airlines, 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, daytime runway restrictions at Visual Flight Rules (VFR)-only airports, shortage of aircraft, leasing-related issues, novation of routes and low passenger load factors have also contributed to discontinuation of certain routes.

(c): The year-wise details of expenditure incurred (in Rs. Cr.) towards the development of aerodromes under the UDAN scheme across the country including Tamil Nadu is as under:

FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26
435.42	800.92	652.48	572.01	245.63

Further, the details of Viability Gap Funding support disbursed to the Selected Airline Operators for the operation of RCS flights is at Annexure- A.

(d): 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.

The next phase of the UDAN Scheme was launched on 04.07.2026 to promote regional air connectivity in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and remote regions across the country, 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 States/districts.

Annexure-A

VGF Disbursed State-wise for Airlines over the last five years (in Rs.crores)

Sl.No	Name of the States/UTs	VGF Disbursed to Airlines from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66.38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	114.48
3.	Assam	79.89
4.	Bihar	10.30
5.	Chhattisgarh	104.12
6.	Diu	24.87
7.	Gujarat	178.47
8.	Haryana	0.66
9.	Himachal Pradesh	80.89
10.	Jharkhand	11.20
11.	Karnataka	559.10
12.	Kerala	49.93
13.	Lakshadweep	43.37
14.	Madhya Pradesh	125.11
15.	Maharashtra	408.06
16.	Manipur	11.32
17.	Meghalaya	53.60
18.	Nagaland	19.10
19.	Odisha	157.15
20.	Punjab	93.39
21.	Rajasthan	159.75
22.	Sikkim	14.61
23.	Tamil Nadu	59.87
24.	Uttar Pradesh	471.86
25.	Uttrakhand	176.62
26.	West Bengal	69.42
