

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4415
(To be answered on the 22nd March 2018)**

Operations by Airlines in Remote Areas

4415. DR. UDIT RAJ

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage operations by airlines in remote areas and inaccessible regions of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to strengthen airport infrastructure in these parts?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN on 21st October, 2016 to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable by supporting airline operators through (1) concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes / other support measures and (2) financial (viability gap funding or VGF) support to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such routes.

(c): Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for revival of 50 un-served / under-served airports / airstrips of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India and Civil enclaves at an estimated cost of Rs. 4500 crores, in three financial years starting from 2017-18. However, the revival of airstrips/airports will be 'demand driven', depending upon firm commitment from airline operators as well as from the State Government for providing various concessions as airports will be developed without insisting on financial viability
