

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1402
(To be answered on the 15th December 2022)**

OPERATIONAL VIABILITY OF ROUTES

1402. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the ratio of operational routes out of the valid routes awarded by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) till December, 2022 and the timeline by which all routes shall be operationalized;
- (b) the ratio of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN routes which have completed a three years tenure till 30.11.2022 and are still operational;
- (c) whether the operational viability of these routes post the cessation of the Government subsidies is a serious concern and if so, the steps taken to address it; and
- (d) the number of airports which are delayed due to non-compliance/default due to Selected Airline Operator (SAO) including the compliance measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a): As of 07.12.2022, out of 1098 valid awarded routes, 453 UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) routes have commenced under the scheme, connecting 70 airports including 9 Heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes.

(b): A total of 197 routes have completed three years of UDAN tenure. Out of these, 78 UDAN routes are operational at present.

(c): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched UDAN on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable for the masses. Viability Gap Funding and exclusivity of the route is provided to the SAOs for a period of 3 years. The operations of the flights inter-alia gets discontinued due to low demand, management issues of the airline, etc. After expiry of exclusivity period of 3 years, any scheduled airline can start flight operations on that route depending upon the traffic demand and their commercial

viability, in compliance with the relevant guidelines in this matter.

(d): A total of 76 routes could not commence due to internal issues of the SAOs like shortage of Pilots, delayed acquisition of aircraft, repositioning of aircraft and delay in getting the approval from the regulator, etc. Action against the defaulting SAOs has been taken by the Implementing Agency as per provisions of the UDAN Scheme document.
