

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1570
(To be answered on the 15th December 2022)**

PROGRESS OF RCS-UDAN

1570. SHRI P.C. MOHAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the progress made by the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN during the last five years;
- (b) whether the scheme is on time to achieve the target of hundred airports by 2026 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of challenges faced by the scheme and the steps 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) to (c): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. As on 30.11.2022, after four rounds of bidding under UDAN, 453 routes have commenced, operationalizing 70 Airports including 2 Water Aerodrome & 9 Heliports. More than 2.15 lakh UDAN flights have operated and over 1.1 crore passengers have availed the benefits in UDAN flights so far. The scheme has been able to provide air connectivity to Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities at affordable airfares and has transformed the way people travel.

The UDAN Scheme is applicable for a period of 10 years from the date of notification of Scheme. The Government has set a target to operationalize 1000 UDAN routes during the currency of the scheme and to revive/develop 100 unserved & underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes by 2024. The Government of India has approved a budget of Rs. 4500 crore for revival of existing unserved / underserved airports / airstrips of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India, Public Sector Undertakings and Civil Enclaves. Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency, monitors the progress for the revival/development of awarded aerodromes under UDAN and the same is reviewed by the Ministry in consultation with stakeholders

time to time.

Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) under UDAN are obligated to commence the flight operations on a route within a period of six months from the issuance of Letter of Award or within two months from the readiness of airport, whichever is later, unless any extension is granted by the Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency. Thus, SAOs start UDAN flights depending upon their readiness and readiness of the awarded aerodromes. However, there is a delay in operationalizing some routes, and also discontinuation of the routes, for reasons which include:

- i) Adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic**
- ii) Non-readiness of civil airports/heliports, which could be related to availability of land, creation of regional infrastructure, obtainment of license from the Regulator etc.**
- iii) Unsustainability of the operation on the awarded routes.**
- iv) Non-readiness of Selected Airlines Operators (SAOs)**
