

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2639
(To be answered on the 22nd December 2022)**

AIR CONNECTIVITY

2639. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide air connectivity to each corner of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized so far;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to boost connectivity to North Eastern Region including Assam and if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to connect remote areas and if so, the details thereof along with the target set 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): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and making air travel affordable to the masses. UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN.

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. 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.

(b): 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. More than Rs. 3000 crore has been utilised so far under the scheme. 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 periodically.

(c) & (d): Rupsi, Tezu, Jorhat, Lilabari, Shillong and Pakyong have been operationalized under UDAN in the States of North Eastern Region for connecting remote and inaccessible areas. Two Advanced landing Grounds namely Pasighat and Ziro have also been operationalized in Arunachal Pradesh under the scheme "Providing Air Connectivity and Aviation Infrastructure in NER (North Eastern Region)".

The airports/heliports/water aerodromes identified for revival/upgradation under UDAN in the State of Assam are Guwahati River Front (WA), Nagaon (H), Rupsi and Umrangso Reservoir (WA).
