

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 395
(To be answered on the 8th December 2022)**

AIRPORTS IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

395. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- a) the details of new airports which have been made operational in North Eastern States during the last ten years;**
(b) whether the number of flights have increased from 2014 to 2022 in this region under Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether some flights to different North Eastern States and hilly areas under the scheme have not started so far or have been put on halt and if so, the reasons therefor; and
(d) the steps taken or being taken to start flights under UDAN scheme which were operational earlier or sanctioned?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a): Airports namely Rupsi, Tezpur, Lilabari, Tezu, Pasighat, Pakyong, Itanagar and one Advanced landing Ground of Ziro have been operationalized in North Eastern Region (NER), after 2012.

(b) to (d): 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. Rupsi, Tezu, Pasighat, Jorhat, Lilabari, Shillong, Pakyong & Dimapur involving 56 routes have been operationalized under UDAN in the States of North Eastern Region.

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)**
