

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1
(To be answered on the 2nd February 2023)**

EXPANSION OF AIRPORT

1. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the airport network and take air travel to the smallest cities in the country;**
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation / development for commencement of flight operations, is developed under "Revival/upgradation of unserved and underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes" Scheme.

As on 20.01.2023, after four rounds of bidding under UDAN, 459 routes have commenced, operationalizing 72 Airports including 2 Water Aerodrome & 9 Heliports. More than 2.16 lakh UDAN flights have been operated and over 1.13 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 across the country at affordable airfares and has transformed the way people travel.
