

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1252
(To be answered on the 27th July 2023)**

FUNDS TO THE AIRLINES

1252. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has provided funds to the airlines to bridge the gap between the cost of operations and expected revenue under viability gap funding to increase regional connectivity and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of aviation sectors in the country which are covered under such scheme and its present status thereof; and
- (c) the projection growth in civil aviation in the country in the next five years?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a): As on 30.06.2023, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) amounting to Rs. 2729.11 crore has been released from the Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust (RACFT) to the Selected Airline Operators for operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme(RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme .

(b): On the basis of the four rounds of bidding under UDAN, 479 routes are operational, connecting 74 airports, including 2 Water Aerodromes and 9 heliports. More than 123 lakh passengers have benefited from the Scheme.

(c) : Civil Aviation sector is likely to grow considerably in the next five years. Some of the areas of growth are as under:

i. It has been decided by the Government to operationalise 21 Greenfield airports in the country. Out of this , 11 Greenfield airports have already been operationalised. Construction works at six airports is progressing.

ii. As per industry projections there may be a need for 1000 pilots per annum in India over the next five years. To augment the availability of Pilots in the country, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has liberalised the Flying Training Organsiation policy.

iii. As per the industry projections, the major domestic airlines are likely to

make more than 900 additions to their fleets .

iv. The Government has set a target to operationalise 1000 UDAN routes during the currency of the scheme and to revive/develop 100 unserved and underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes in the country by 2024 for operation of UDAN flights. UDAN is an ongoing market driven scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. Based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, interested airlines submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of UDAN operations, is developed under 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme.
