

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2491  
(To be answered on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020)**

**NEW AIRPORT CONNECTIVITY ROUTES**

**2491.        SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

**(a) whether the Government intends to organize a meeting with airline operators to establish new airport connectivity routes and slot allocation and if so, the details thereof;**

**(b) whether the Government proposes to enhance the RCS-UDAN scheme to attract the airline operators to expand their operations for the new airport connecting routes like the one in Jalgaon, Maharashtra; and**

**(c) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)**

**(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)**

**(a) to (c): Government has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. RCS-UDAN has been prepared in extensive consultations with State Governments and airlines. Promoting affordability of regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS by supporting Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) through concessions by Central Government, State Governments/UTs and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes and financial support (Viability Gap Funding or VGF) to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such RCS routes. Central Government and State Governments share Viability Gap Funding (VGF) in the ratio of 80:20, whereas for the States in North-Eastern region / Union Territories (UTs) the ratio is 90:10. RCS-UDAN is a market driven scheme. Airlines undertake assessment of demand and nature of supply required on particular routes and lead the process under RCS. After three rounds of bidding, the Implementing Agency, the Airports Authority of India (AAI), has awarded 688 valid RCS routes. Under the scheme, routes connecting Amravati, Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Nanded, Nasik and Solapur have been awarded to SAOs in Maharashtra .**

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