

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2623
(To be answered on the 17th March 2022)**

AIR CONNECTIVITY

2623. SHRI NAYAB SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to link the cities already having airstrips with air connectivity and develop them;**
- (b) whether the Government has devised any plan to set up airports for Kurukshetra and Aligarh and enhance air connectivity;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) if not, the plan of the Government to provide air connectivity in these cities?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (d): The 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 by making air travel affordable to the masses. Under UDAN, 948 valid routes have been awarded, of which, 409 Routes connecting 66 unserved and underserved airports including 8 Heliports & 2 water aerodromes have been operationalized as on 14.03.2022.

UDAN is a market driven Scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit proposals at the time of bidding under RCS. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of RCS operations, is developed under "Revival/upgradation of unserved and underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes" scheme.

Aligarh Airport is owned by State Government of Uttar Pradesh and has been identified under UDAN for operation of RCS flights connecting Lucknow and Kanpur cities. Revival/upgradation of the Aligarh airport has been undertaken under "Revival of unserved and underserved airports" scheme. Kurukshetra Airport does not figure in the tentative list of unserved airports in the UDAN document.
