

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2744  
(To be answered on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022)**

**REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY**

**2744. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for improving regional air connectivity within the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for development of new airports and improving infrastructure for airlines; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION**

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

**(a) to (d): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. Under UDAN, 948 valid routes have been awarded across length and breadth in the country, of which, 409 routes connecting 66 unserved and underserved airports including 8 Heliports & 2 water aerodromes have been operationalized as on 14.03.2022.**

**Besides Viability Gap Funding (VGF), other concessions from Central, State Governments and airport operators are extended to Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) to encourage operations from unserved/underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes and to keep the air fare affordable.**

**Airports Authority of India(AAI), the Implementing Agency has identified 154 RCS airports including 14 water aerodromes and 36 helipads so far under UDAN for operation of RCS flights. As on 14.03.2022, 66 airports including 8 heliports and 2 water aerodromes have been operationalized under UDAN.**

**UDAN is a market driven scheme. 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. The Government of India has approved a budget of Rs. 4500 crore for revival of existing unserved / underserved airports / airstrips of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India, Public Sector Undertakings and Civil Enclaves. An amount of Rs. 2097.22 crores has been reimbursed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to AAI till February, 2022 under the scheme.**

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