

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 417
(To be answered on the 3rd February 2022)

UDAN SCHEME

417. SHRI NIHAL CHAND

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

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be pleased to state:-

- (a) the salient features and objectives of the UDAN scheme;
- (b) the total number of areas covered under this scheme in the country, phase-wise till date along with the State/UT-wise details thereof, particularly in respect of Rajasthan;
- (c) whether the Union Government has made any special provisions under the scheme for the coverage of border areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to cover Lalgarh airstrip located in district Sri Ganganagar (Rajasthan) under the scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether it is likely to be considered in near future?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

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

- (a): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable for the masses. The salient features of the UDAN scheme are as under:
- i) The Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN is designed to enable air operations on underserved/unserved routes connecting regional areas, promote balanced regional growth and make flying affordable for masses.
 - ii) Financial incentives in terms of concessions from Central, State Governments and airport operators are extended to Selected Airline Operators to encourage operations from unserved/underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes and to keep the air fare affordable.
 - iii) Support to the Selected Airline Operators in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF). State Governments concerned provide 20% share towards VGF for RCS flights pertaining to their states. However, the share of VGF for North-Eastern states and the Union Territories is 10%.
 - iv) Excise Duty at the rate of 2% is levied on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) drawn by Selected Airline Operators at RCS Airports for RCS Flights for a period of three (3) years from the date of commencement of RCS flight.

v) The airlines are required to commit around 50% of the seats as RCS seats (limited to 40 seats) on RCS flights.

vi) Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) is created by levying Rs.5000/- on each departure of flights on aircraft having MTOW (Maximum Take-Off Weight) above 40 Tonnes except for the departure of flights on routes in North East Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

vii) For balanced regional growth, route allocations are spread equitably across five regions in the country viz.

North, South, East, West and North East (with a cap of 30% in a given region).

viii) RCS-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 - UDAN.

(b) to (e): Under UDAN, 948 valid routes have been awarded across length and breadth in the country, of which, 403 routes connecting 65 unserved and underserved airports including 8 Heliports & 2 water aerodromes have been operationalized. Under the scheme, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, North Eastern Region states and Andaman Nicobar island & Lakshadweep islands are considered as Priority areas for additional incentives to Promote Helicopter and Small Aircraft Operations.

Kota, Uterlai, Abu Road, Alwar, Banasthali, Banswara (Tilwara), Bharatpur, Dholpur, Gadra Road, Hamirgarh, Isarda, Jhalawar (Brijnagar), Jhunjhunu, Kankoroli, Lalgarh, Malapura, Mathania, Merta Road, Nagaur, Pileri, Salawas, Sawai Madhopur, Shahpur, Sirohi and Suratgarh figure in the list of unserved/underserved airports/airstrips of the UDAN Scheme document. Till fourth round of bidding, Bikaner, Kishangarh, Uterlai, Kota and Jaisalmer have been identified in Rajasthan under UDAN for operationalization. Out of these identified airports, UDAN flights have been commenced from Bikaner, Kishangarh and Jaisalmer.

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. Lalgarh (Sri Ganganagar) is listed as unserved airport in the UDAN Scheme document. Airports Authority of India(AAI), the Implementing Agency, had offered 'Sri Ganganagar-Jaipur-Sri Ganganagar' as a State sponsored route under UDAN 4.1 bidding concluded recently.
