

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 552
(To be answered on the 25th July 2024)**

EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF AIRPORTS

552. SHRI BRIJMOHAN AGRAWAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of plans and timelines drawn for expansion and modernization of airports to improve connectivity; and

(b) the details of initiatives taken to promote regional connectivity and make air travel accessible in underserved areas and districts which are having tourist attractions?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): The expansion and modernisation of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Airport Operators from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand / willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports.

(b): Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) 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 make air travel affordable to the masses. As per the provisions in the UDAN Scheme, revival / up-gradation of unserved and underserved airports is done upon its identification through valid bid and award to the SAO (Selected Airline Operator). On conclusion of five rounds of bidding under the scheme, 579 routes connecting 85 unserved and underserved airports, including 13 heliports & 02 water aerodromes, have been operationalised.
