

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Lok Sabha**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 669

(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th November 2024)

DEVELOPMENT OF AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE

669. DR. LATA WANKHEDE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the schemes formulated by the Government for setting up of new airports and development of aviation infrastructure;**
- (b) the names of the cities where new airports are being set up;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes any new initiatives to make air travel more affordable and accessible and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the number of new routes included under the UDAN scheme; and**
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the air connectivity for small cities and villages?**

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)**

(a) & (b): Government of India has formulated a Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008 which provides guidelines, procedure and conditions for establishment of new Greenfield Airports in the country. As per Policy, an airport developer, including the State Government, willing to establish an airport is required to send a proposal to Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), in the prescribed format for a 2-stage approval process i.e. 'Site Clearance' followed by 'In-Principle' approval.

Government of India has so far accorded 'In-principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country, namely, Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra,

Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Hassan and Shivamogga in Karnataka, Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Rajkot in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadathi, Bhogapuram and Oravakal (kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh across the country.

Out of these, 12 Greenfield airports, namely, Durgapur, Shirdi, Sindhudurg, Pakyong, Kannur, Kalaburagi, Oravakal, Kushinagar, Itanagar, Mopa, Shivammogga and Rajkot have been operationalised.

With a view to strengthen the aviation infrastructure in the country, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and PPP Partners have embarked upon a CAPEX plan of more than Rs. 91,000 crore during FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25, Out of this, more than Rs. 25,000 crore capital expenditure is being incurred by AAI and the remaining by private airport operators/developers under PPP mode.

(c) to (e): With a view to make air travel affordable to the masses, Government launched RCS - UDAN in October 2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country. Promoting affordability is envisioned under UDAN by supporting Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) through concessions by the Central Government, State Governments/UTs and airport operators to reduce the cost of operations on regional routes and providing financial Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support to meet the gap.

UDAN is a demand driven Scheme wherein interested airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under the Scheme. The development/revival/up-gradation of unserved and underserved airports/airstrips is undertaken upon its identification through valid bid and award to the Selected Airline Operator (SAO).

As on 25.11.2024, 609 routes connecting 86 airports, including 2 Water Aerodromes and 13 Heliports, have so far been operationalised under RCS. More than 146 lakh passengers across the country have so far benefited from the UDAN Scheme.
