

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4382  
(To be answered on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025)**

**REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY UNDER UDAN SCHEME**

**4382. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI  
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) the number of new regional airports and air routes operationalized under UDAN scheme in 2024-25;**  
**(b) the financial assistance provided to airlines and airport operators for improving regional air connectivity; and**  
**(c) the challenges faced in ensuring the long-term financial viability of UDAN routes and the steps being taken by the Government to address them?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION  
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

**(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)**

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**(a) & (b): During the year 2024-25, 04 airports & 02 heliports have been operationalised under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) . 66 RCS routes have been operationalised during the year 2024-25 (till date).**

**Promoting affordability of regional air connectivity 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 or VGF) support to meet the gap. Rs 4023 crores of VGF support has been provided to airlines so far under the Scheme since its inception.**

**(c): UDAN is a market driven ongoing scheme wherein bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations. Airlines are invited to participate in the bidding rounds as per their own assessment of routes and feasibility. In order to improve long term sustainability of the routes under the UDAN Scheme, the following approach is adopted:**

**1. To leverage the expertise of the relevant State Government in their respective regions, they have been requested to identify and prioritize high-potential aerodromes that can be developed and operationalised. This initiative aims to ensure a more efficient and strategic approach to the expansion of aviation infrastructure, capitalising on local knowledge and available resources.**

**2. In order to further increase the routes operationalized viz a viz the routes awarded, airlines have been asked to submit business plans for timely operationalisation, prior to the award of the route. The Implementing Agency has also been publishing the list of prioritized aerodromes that are ready or ready within 6 months. Further, eligible routes that were discontinued in the past rounds due to various reasons such as airline failure, have also been re-bid, awarded and operationalised in the subsequent rounds. This is an evolving process.**

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