

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 489  
(To be answered on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025)**

**REVIVAL OF NON-OPERATIONAL AIRSTRIPS**

**489. SHRI DULU MAHATO**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether it is a fact that several usable airstrips are deteriorating due to non-operation across the country including Dhanbad, under the jurisdiction of the State Governments and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to initiate operations at the said airstrips to open avenues for new players for the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) in consultation with the State Governments and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to restore and operationalize the said airstrips under the jurisdiction of the State Governments; and
- (d) the timeline fixed for reviving the said airstrips and integrating them into the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)?

**ANSWER**

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

**नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

**(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)**

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(a) to (d): The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), is a government backed initiative to improve infrastructure and connectivity in India, especially in remote and underserved regions. UDAN is an ongoing scheme wherein bidding rounds are conducted from time to time for covering more destinations and routes under the scheme. Revival / up-gradation of unserved and underserved airports is undertaken upon its identification through valid bid and award to the Selected Airline Operator (SAO).

Dhanbad airstrip, owned by the State Government of Jharkhand is available in the list of unserved airstrips in the UDAN Document.

During UDAN 5.2 round of bidding, bids have been received connecting Dhanbad airport in Jharkhand. Thereafter, the State Government of Jharkhand was requested to provide their consent and confirmation

**regarding the availability of land for the operation of small aircraft (2B) and for future expansion to category 3C.**

**The State Government has not given their consent to develop the Dhanbad airport due to land constraints.**

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