

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 5377  
(To be answered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025)**

**REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY UNDER UDAN SCHEME**

**5377. SMT JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT  
DR. AMAR SINGH**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) the number of new regional airports and air routes operationalised under the 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 by the Government in ensuring the long-term financial viability of UDAN routes and the steps being taken 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) to (c): 04 airports, 02 heliports and 66 RCS routes have been operationalised during the year 2024-25 under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) .**

**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.**

**The challenges being faced in implementing the UDAN routes are demand fluctuations, high operational costs, weather disruptions, airport slot constraints, low passenger demand and airline consolidation. In order to improve long term sustainability of the routes and to address these issues, the government provides viability gap funding (VGF) to airlines, supports the upgrading of regional airports, and encourages operational flexibility. 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.**

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