

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 5463  
(To be answered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025)**

**AIR CONNECTIVITY FOR RAJASTHAN**

**5463. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MEENA**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether the Government has identified new cities for providing air connectivity under the UDAN scheme in Rajasthan including Tonk;  
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the expected timeline for implementation of the said extension of UDAN scheme;  
(c) the challenges being faced in implementing the said extension of UDAN scheme along with the steps taken to address the said challenges; and  
(d) whether any specific proposals are under consideration with the Government to enhance air connectivity to heritage and pilgrimage sites in Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

**(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)**

---

(a) to (d): Airports that have been operationalised under RCS-UDAN in Rajasthan are Bikaner, Kishangarh and Jaisalmer. In addition, Uterlai and Sriganganagar Airports have been identified for development and to operate RCS flights in the state of Rajasthan.

The government recently announced the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations and to cater to 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts. The scheme is presently at formulation stage.

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.**

**RCS-UDAN is a demand-driven ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. Based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, interested airlines submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. Revival / up-gradation of unserved and underserved airports is undertaken upon its identification through valid bid and award to the Selected Airline Operator (SAO).**

**\*\*\*\*\***