

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3146
(To be answered on the 7th August 2025)**

REDUCTION IN BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR UDAN

3146. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the budgetary allocation for the UDAN scheme was reduced to Rupees 540 crore in 2025–26 from Rupees 800 crore during the last year and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether more than 50 percent of the UDAN routes were discontinued after completion of the three-year Viability Gap Funding (VGF) tenure, if so, the reasons therefor along with the steps being taken to revive these routes; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering any concrete plan to restart commercial operations at Bikaner Airport in Rajasthan under the UDAN scheme 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): The Budget Estimates for 2025-26 (Rs. 540.00 crore) under Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN shows a decrease from the previous year's Revised Estimates of Rs. 800.00 crore. However, it still reflects an increase over the previous year's Budget Estimates of Rs. 502.00 crore.

(b): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), 285 routes have completed the three-year tenure. Out of these, 133 routes have been re-operationalized or continue to operate commercially without Viability Gap Funding (VGF) or concessions. Further, 102 routes are ineligible for re-bidding under current RCS provisions, as both connecting airports are already served, reflecting the Scheme's success in enhancing regional connectivity and operationalizing multiple routes from airports developed under RCS.

The remaining routes were discontinued due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, grounding of many aircraft due to supply chain issues, shutdown of airlines and low passenger demand on some routes. To revive these routes,

special bidding rounds are conducted to operationalize them.

(c): Alliance Air is operating RCS flights between Bikaner and Jaipur since 17.06.2024.
