

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3160
(To be answered on the 7th August 2025)**

SEAPLANE INITIATIVES UNDER UDAN

3160. SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of seaplane routes identified under the UDAN scheme along with the number of such routes likely to become operational by 2026;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that 114 UDAN routes have been discontinued due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 and airline shutdowns;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to address the issue; and
- (d) the steps being taken to mitigate the impact of poor weather conditions and operational constraints on UDAN flight cancellations?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Ministry of Civil Aviation introduced seaplane operations from water aerodromes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik 3.0 (RCS-UDAN 3.0). During various rounds of bidding, 30 valid seaplane routes have been awarded, connecting identified water aerodromes.

(b) & (c): As of now, 129 RCS routes have been discontinued before the 3-year tenure till date due to various reasons such as COVID-19 pandemic, grounding of many aircraft due to supply chain issues, shutting down of airlines and low passenger demand on some routes.

Of these, 24 routes are currently being operated commercially outside the UDAN scheme, without any Viability Gap Funding (VGF) or concessions and 28 routes are operational under the scheme, having been awarded to other airlines in later bidding rounds. Additionally, 39 routes do not meet the criteria for re-bidding under RCS provisions, as both connecting airports are already served reflecting the sustained efforts and progress made under the scheme in operationalizing multiple routes from airports developed under RCS. The routes which were once awarded but could not commence or

continue, are offered for re-bidding under subsequent UDAN Rounds.

(d): In the event of flight cancellations, including UDAN Flights, DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 3, Series M, Part IV titled as "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights".

Further, to reduce cancellations due to low visibility in poor weather conditions, AAI is increasingly adopting technologies like Special Visual Flight Rules, Instrument Flight Rules and Required Navigation Performance procedures at airports.
