

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 262
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th December 2025)

REBIDDING OF RCS ROUTES

262. SHRI Y S AVINASH REDDY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the one-year timeline for rebidding the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) routes applies from the award of the route or after the closure of operations on that route and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the additional incentives or safeguards introduced/proposed to be introduced by the Government to encourage airlines to maintain services on RCS routes beyond the subsidy period;
- (c) whether it is true that 225 RCS routes have ceased operations and if so, the primary reasons behind airlines discontinuing services despite Government support; and
- (d) the plans of the Government to revive or repurpose underutilized airstrips that were rehabilitated under the RCS scheme but have since fallen into disuse?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 262 FOR REPLY ON 18.12.2025 REGARDING REBIDDING OF RCS ROUTES ASKED BY SHRI Y S AVINASH REDDY.; (a) & (b): The minimum period required for rebidding of Regional Connectivity Scheme -Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) routes applies after the discontinuation of flight operations on that route. The minimum period is considered as the last two schedules prior to the launch of re-bidding rounds. In case, the routes are available in these two schedules, they will not be eligible for bidding. No incentives or safeguards are extended to airlines beyond RCS tenure as per the existing scheme provisions.; (c): 123 RCS routes have been discontinued before tenure till date due to various reasons such as the COVID-19 pandemic, grounding of many aircraft due to supply chain issues, shutting down of airlines, disruptions such as adverse weather conditions, aircraft maintenance, airport/runway maintenance and assigning contractual rights of routes to another airline and low passenger demand. (d): Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN is an ongoing scheme wherein bidding rounds are conducted from time to time for covering more destinations and routes. Unserved airports which were revived and operationalised under UDAN, but have become non operational, are taken up for rebidding as per the Scheme provisions.; Further, the Government has announced the launch of Modified UDAN Scheme to enhance regional connectivity to 120 new destinations and carry 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. The Scheme will also support helipads and small airports in Hilly, Island, North Eastern and aspirational districts.
