

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. : 390**  
( TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026 )

**FLIGHTS BETWEEN SMALLER CITIES**

390. SHRI AJAY BHATT

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to commence flights between smaller cities across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the air services being provided and proposed between smaller cities across the country, State-wise including Uttarakhand; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to develop air service circuits among cities of religious importance and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 390 FOR ANSWER ON 19.03.2026 REGARDING "FLIGHTS BETWEEN SMALLER CITIES" ASKED BY SHRI AJAY BHATT.**

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) on October 21, 2016, to facilitate regional air connectivity by reviving unserved and underserved airports in Tier-2 & Tier-3 cities. As on 28.02.2026, 663 number of RCS routes have been operationalised under the scheme, connecting 95 unserved and underserved airports, including 17 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country. The state-wise connectivity of flight routes, as per DGCA Winter Schedule 2025 is placed at Annexure. With the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation sector was fully deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any type of aircraft and to determine the markets and routes they wish to serve. However, such operations are subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government, slot allocation by the respective airport operators and approval of flight schedules by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Further, the Government has announced the launch of the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country including the State of Uttarakhand to cater to 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational, and North East region districts. Under the UDAN Scheme (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), several airports located near major religious destinations have been developed and operationalised to enhance air connectivity for pilgrims.

**State Wise Air Connectivity – Winter Schedule 2025**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State &amp; Union Territories</b>	<b>Names of Cities Air linked</b>	<b>No of Airports</b>
<b>States</b>			
1	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah, Kurnool, Rajamundry, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Vizag,	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Hollongi ,Pasighat, Tezu, Ziro,	4
3	Assam	Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jorhat, Lilabari, Silchar, Rupsi	6
4	Bihar	Darbhanga ,Gaya, Patna, Purnia	4
5	Chhattisgarh	Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Jagdalpur, , Raipur	4
6	Delhi	Delhi	1
7	Goa	Goa , Mopa (new Goa)	2
8	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Hirasar, Jamnagar, Kandla, Keshod, Porbandar, Surat, Vadodara,	9
9	Haryana	Hisar	1
10	Himachal Pradesh	Dharamshala, Kullu, Shimla	3
11	Jharkhand	Deoghar, Jamshedpur, Ranchi	3
12	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belgaum, Bidar, Hubli, Gulbarga, Mangalore, Mysore, Shivmoga, Vidyanagar	9
13	Kerala	Cochin, Kannur, Kozhikode, Trivandrum	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Datia, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Khajurao, Rewa	7
15	Maharashtra	Amravati, Aurangabad, Gondia, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nanded , Nashik, Pune, Shirdi, Sindhudurg, Solapur	13
16	Manipur	Imphal	1
17	Meghalaya	Shillong	1
18	Mizoram	Aizwal	1
19	Nagaland	Dimapur	1
20	Orissa	Bhubaneswar, Jeypore, Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Utkela	5
21	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Jalandhar	3
22	Rajasthan	Bikaner, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Kishangarh, Udaipur	6
23	Sikkim	-	
24	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem,	6

		Trichy, Tuticorin,	
25	Telangana	Hyderabad	1
26	Tripura	Agartala	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Ayodhya, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Hindon, Kanpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Varanasi	9
28	Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Pant Nagar, Pithoragarh	3
29	West Bengal	Bagdogra, CoochBehar, Durgapur, Kolkata	4
<b>Union Territories</b>			
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	1
2	Lakshadweep Islands	Agatti	1
3	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1
4	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	
5	Daman & Diu	Diu	1
6	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	1
7	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu, Srinagar	2
8	Ladakh	Leh,	1
<b>Number of cities connected by Scheduled domestic carriers</b>			<b>126</b>