

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. : 400

(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026)

OPERATIONALISATION OF UNSERVED AIRPORTS

400. DR. MANNA LAL RAWAT
DR. RAJESH MISHRA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has achieved the target of operationalising hundred unserved or underserved airports by the beginning of the year 2026 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the roadmap prepared and targets set under the Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme for the next phase of expansion of unserved and underserved airports along with the timeline fixed and locations proposed in this regard;
- (c) whether the increased budgetary allocation for the UDAN scheme during the financial year 2026-27 is proposed to be utilised for the tourist town of Rajgir in Nalanda district and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the manner in which the said increased budgetary allocation is likely to be utilised to expand last-mile connectivity in the country, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan, North-Eastern Region and Madhya Pradesh; and
- (e) whether the Government has finalised the Seaplane Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to promote tourism in island territories and coastal States and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (E) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.400 FOR REPLY ON 19.03.2026 REGARDING 'OPERATIONALISATION OF UNSERVED AIRPORTS ' ASKED BY DR. MANNA LAL RAWAT & DR. RAJESH MISHRA.

(a) to (d): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN, as on 28.02.2026, 663 routes connecting 95 unserved and underserved airports (including 17 heliports and 2 water aerodromes) have been operationalised.

To further strengthen and expand regional air connectivity, the Government has announced the launch of the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, 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. The scheme is presently at the approval stage.

Rajgir in Nalanda District is not available in the list of unserved airstrips under UDAN. Under the 'Revival of unserved/underserved airstrips' Scheme, only existing airstrips are taken up for development upon identification in bidding rounds under UDAN for operating RCS flights. However, Government of Bihar (GoB) in January, 2025 had submitted a proposal seeking 'Site Clearance' for establishment of a Greenfield Airport at Rajgir. The proposal was returned with certain observations requesting GoB to submit duly filled application along with requisite documents.

(e): In the Union Budget 2026-27, the Government has announced the introduction of a Seaplane VGF Scheme to provide support for Seaplane operations. The scheme is currently at formulation stage.
