GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2182
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12th February 2026)

SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER UDAN

2182.   SHRI K C VENUGOPAL
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the rapid expansion of UDAN airports has outpaced safety infrastructure and emergency preparedness and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the number of regional airports lacking full firefighting, rescue and medical response capabilities;
(c) whether safety audits of Tier-II and Tier-III airports are conducted with the same rigour as metro airports and if so, the details thereof;
(d) the steps taken to address manpower and equipment shortages at newly operational aerodromes; and
(e) whether further expansion under the UDAN scheme would be paused until identified safety gaps are addressed and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION   (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (e): The operationalisation of airports under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) Scheme is undertaken only after ensuring compliance with all safety, security and emergency preparedness requirements prescribed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

Safety audits of all licensed airports, including Tier-II and Tier-III airports, and Air Navigation Services (ANS) centres managed by AAI are conducted with the same rigour as metro airports. These are carried out as per the standard audit checklist prescribed in the Safety Management System (SMS) Manual approved by DGCA.

AAI has taken several steps to address manpower and equipment shortages at newly operational aerodromes, including expediting recruitment, redeployment of staff at operationally sensitive airports, regular safety inspections, refresher training, strict compliance with DGCA and ICAO norms, implementation of contingency arrangements and system redundancies, and increased use of automation and centralized monitoring systems.

Further, AAI has carried out multiple recruitments in disciplines such as ATC, CNS, Finance and HR to ensure optimal staffing.

******