

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3390**  
( TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12th March 2026 )

**ROUTES UNDER RCS-UDAN SCHEME**

3390. SHRI B Y RAGHAVENDRA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is true that the selected Airline Operators awarded routes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN are required to enter into formal agreements stipulating timelines and operational commitments for commencement of flight services and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total number of routes awarded under the UDAN scheme since its inception on which operations have not commenced within the stipulated timeframe, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka;
- (c) the safeguards incorporated in the scheme framework including Performance Bank Guarantees (PBGs), Viability Gap Funding (VGF) conditions or other financial securities to ensure adherence to operational commitments by airline operators;
- (d) whether such safeguards have been invoked in cases of non-commencement or prolonged delay in operationalisation and if so, the details thereof along with the number of such instances; and
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any review to further strengthen monitoring and implementation mechanisms so that the objectives of regional connectivity and balanced aviation growth are fully realised and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): Under the provisions of the Regional Connectivity Scheme, the routes awarded to Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) through the competitive bidding process are required to sign a Selected Airline Operator Agreement (SAOA) with the Implementing Agency. The agreement stipulates various obligations including timelines for commencement of operations, minimum weekly flight frequencies, adherence to capped airfares for RCS seats. The SAOs are required to operationalize the awarded routes within the stipulated timeframe specified in the agreement.

(b): Since inception of the Regional Connectivity Scheme, 925 RCS routes stand awarded, out of which 663 have been operationalised.

In the State of Karnataka, 128 RCS valid routes have been awarded in Karnataka, out of which 118 RCS routes have been operationalised.

(c) & (d): Performance Bank Guarantee submitted by the Selected Airline Operator shall be liable for partial or full forfeiture as per the terms and conditions of the Selected Airline Operator Agreement.

Upon such forfeiture, the Selected Airline Operator will be required to replenish the Performance Guarantee within a specified period, failing which the Implementing Agency may terminate the Agreement and proceed as per provisions of the Agreement and the Scheme.

(e): Based on the experience gained during various bidding rounds, appropriate modifications and refinements in scheme guidelines, monitoring mechanisms and implementation processes have been undertaken from time to time to strengthen regional connectivity and ensure balanced growth of the aviation sector in the country.

\*\*\*\*\*