

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4401

(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026)

DEVELOPMENT OF AIRPORTS IN KERALA

4401. SMT PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop any new greenfield airports in Kerala under the UDAN scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether new UDAN routes from Kannur International Airport are proposed to be operationalised and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to revive UDAN routes from Kannur which were discontinued post COVID and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the current status of the heliports and waterdromes proposed to be operationalised in Kerala;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to launch seaplane services to boost tourism and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to regulate or cap predatory or exorbitant airfares on routes from Kerala to the Middle East during peak season for passenger welfare and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) envisages providing connectivity to unserved and underserved airports of the country through revival of existing airstrips and airports. Further, greenfield airports are not taken up for development under the UDAN scheme.

Under the UDAN scheme, Kannur Airport is classified as a "served airport" and therefore routes connecting Kannur airport do not fall under the purview of the Scheme. However, Kannur is available in the Scheme document for connectivity with other unserved/underserved airports in the country.

(d) & (e): Under the UDAN Scheme, heliports are taken up for development after their identification through a valid bid by an airline, only in Priority areas

viz Himalayan, Island and North East territories. Further, 10 water aerodromes in the State, namely Ashtamudi, Banasurasagar, Bolgatty, Ikkudi Dam, Kasaragod, Kovalam, Kumarakom, Malampuzha, Munnar (Mattupetty Dam or Changulam Dam) and Punnamada, are available for bidding in the UDAN document.

During UDAN 5.5, bids have been received for eight of these water aerodromes except Ashtamudi and Punnamada. Operationalisation of RCS routes from these water-aerodromes is subject to readiness of infrastructure and operator.

(f): In a deregulated aviation market, airfares are neither fixed nor regulated by the Government and are determined by airlines based on demand-supply dynamics and other commercial considerations.
