

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4428
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026)

**NATIONAL CAPACITY ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR AIRPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE**

4428. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the current status of the National Capacity Alignment Plan to synchronise the development of airport infrastructure with airline fleet expansion;
- (b) whether the existing infrastructure is keeping pace with the growing passenger traffic and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the current operational status of all airports developed under the UDAN scheme and the steps being taken to improve air connectivity in Tier-3 cities;
- (d) the total number of routes under the UDAN scheme that have become financially sustainable along with the strategy of the Government to make the remaining routes financially sustainable;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to develop new airports and modernise the existing airports and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (f) the strategy of the Government regarding Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) projects and the measures being taken to encourage/support AAM projects; and
- (g) the measures being taken to address the shortage of pilots and other trained aviation personnel along with the outcomes of such measures?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has taken various steps including construction of Greenfield Airports, modernization & capacity expansion of the existing Brownfield airports and revival of unserved/under-served airports under RCS-UDAN for augmenting airport infrastructure to meet the growing air traffic demand. As on 31.03.2025, Passenger handling capacity at all airports was approx. 535 Million Passenger Per Annum (MPPA), whereas total passenger handled for FY 2024-25 was approx. 412 MPPA.

Under the UDAN scheme, 95 unserved and underserved airports (including 17 heliports and 02 water aerodromes) have been operationalised of which 15 airports presently do not have scheduled flights due to aircraft shortage with airlines and presently 336 routes are in operation. The Government has announced a modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new underserved and unserved destinations, which will support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts.

Airlines operating under UDAN are provided Viability Gap Funding (VGF). Airlines also benefit from concessions on airport and navigation charges, reduced VAT and excise duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

As per Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008, "In-Principle" approval has been accorded for setting up of 25 Greenfield Airports, out of which 13 have been operationalised and remaining are at different stages of development namely Doloo in Assam, Puri in Odisha, Parandur in Tamil Nadu, Kota in Rajasthan, Vijayapura and Hassan in Karnataka, Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadathi and Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh.

Upgradation/modernisation of existing airports is a continuous process depending on traffic demand, availability of land, commercial viability, requisite approvals etc.

(f): Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) is an emerging area globally as a new technology in air transport. MoCA is actively engaging with stakeholders to explore the potential of AAM in India.

(g): Keeping in view the increasing demand for skilled pilots in the country, MoCA periodically undertakes reforms to optimize pilot training capacity and promote skill development in aviation. Currently, 40 DGCA-approved Flying Training Organisations are imparting flying training at 62 flying bases for issuance of pilot licences.
