

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4501**  
( TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026 )

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY**

4501. DR. PRABHA MALLIKARJUN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the long-term financial viability of regional air routes after the withdrawal of viability gap funding and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of regional routes discontinued during the last five years due to low passenger load factors or airline losses, State-wise;
- (c) whether route planning under regional connectivity schemes adequately factors in local economic activity, industrial growth and educational hubs and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken to prevent regional airports from becoming under-utilised or financially unviable assets; and
- (e) whether any economic feasibility or passenger demand study has been conducted for providing air connectivity to Davanagere and if so, the findings thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) : Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN (RCS-UDAN) is a demand-driven scheme in which airline bidders undertake route planning based on regional demand factors such as tourism potential, trade activity, industrial clusters, educational centres and existing connectivity gaps. More than 160 operationalised routes have become commercial and are operating without VGF support under the Scheme.

At present, 325 routes awarded under the RCS-UDAN have discontinued of which 167 routes connect airports that have transitioned from unserved/underserved to served airports following earlier UDAN interventions and subsequent development of infrastructure and market presence.

To revive the remaining routes, the Implementing Agency is proactively monitoring discontinued routes and conducting targeted bidding rounds, which have already resulted in the re-operationalisation of several routes.

(e) : Government of India (GoI) has formulated a Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008 for development of new Greenfield airports in the country. As per the policy, if any airport developer including the State Government desires to develop an airport, they are required to identify a suitable site and get the Prefeasibility Study conducted and submit a proposal to the Central Government for 'Site Clearance' followed by 'In-Principle' approval.

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