

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 6436

(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2nd April 2026)

**AFFORDABLE REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY UNDER UDAN
SCHEME**

6436. SMT MALVIKA DEVI
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA
SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI
SMT SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO
SMT MAHIMA KUMARI MEWAR
DR. M K VISHNU PRASAD
SMT KAMLESH JANGDE
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH
SHRI LUMBARAM CHOUDHARY
DR. VINOD KUMAR BIND
SHRI YOGENDER CHANDOLIA
SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY
SHRI TEJASVI SURYA
SHRI DINESHBHAI MAKWANA
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU
SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM
SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI
SHRI TAPIR GAO
SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL
SHRI RODMAL NAGAR
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to further expand the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme to connect additional Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and remote areas through affordable regional air connectivity;

- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of additional airports, heliports and water aerodromes proposed to be operationalised in the upcoming phases, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to commence regular flights from Manpur airstrip during the current session; and
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the operational sustainability of routes under the UDAN scheme, particularly with regard to Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and airline participation and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government has recently approved a modified UDAN Scheme to connect 120 new destinations, serve 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and small airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts. Any valid proposal for air connectivity to Manpur (Abu Road) Airstrip may be considered as per the scheme provisions.

(d): An evaluation study titled "Evaluation Study of Regional Connectivity Scheme" was conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog during 2023-24. The study highlighted the need for clearer targets, improved route selection based on regional market conditions, adequate funding of the Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF), feasibility assessments for RCS airports, capacity building and stronger coordination with State/UT Governments.
