

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 917
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 23rd July 2026)
EXPANSION OF UDAN SCHEME IN KERALA

917. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of the UDAN Scheme in Kerala to improve regional air connectivity and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of routes sanctioned, operationalised and discontinued under the UDAN Scheme in Kerala during the last three years;
- (c) whether any proposals have been received from the State Government of Kerala for inclusion of additional destinations under future phases of the UDAN Scheme and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve affordable air connectivity and passenger services in underserved regions?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN, one airport in Keralam, namely Kannur, has been identified for operationalisation of RCS flight services to enhance regional air connectivity. A total of 20 routes have been operationalised under RCS-UDAN scheme in Keralam out of which, 12 routes are currently operational.

As next phase of UDAN scheme, the Government has launched the Modified UDAN Scheme on 04.07.2026 to further enhance regional air connectivity across the country, including Kerala, targeting 120 new unserved and underserved destinations and facilitating air travel for 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. The Scheme envisages a Challenge Mode framework for the development of airports nominated by States.

The UDAN Scheme promotes affordable air travel by providing financial incentives to selected airline operators (SAOs) through concessions extended by the Central Government, State Governments, Union Territories, and airport operators to reduce operational costs, along with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for the operation of RCS routes. Further, selected airline operators are required to provide around 50% of the seats as RCS seats, with the applicable airfare capped for seats supported through VGF.
