

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4671
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st August 2025)

EXPANSION OF AIR CONNECTIVITY UNDER UDAN SCHEME

4671. SHRI ANUP SANJAY DHOTRE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of airports, heliports and water aerodromes operationalised under the UDAN scheme so far;
- (b) whether new routes have been identified in underserved and unserved regions for the next phase of the scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the socio-economic impact observed as a result of improved air connectivity in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to collaborate with State Governments to improve regional aviation infrastructure and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the incentives being provided to airlines for sustaining operations on low-profit regional routes?

ANSWER

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

- (a): 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes, have so far been operationalised across the country under the RCS-UDAN scheme. ;
- ;
- (b) 637 Routes have been operationalised under the ongoing RCS-UDAN scheme.
The Government has recently announced the launch of the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, including Uttar Pradesh and to cater to 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years.
- ;
- (c): RCS-UDAN has boosted regional economic growth by improving connectivity in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, fostering tourism, trade, employment, and inclusive development across remote and underserved regions.
- (d): The scheme involves active participation of State Governments, with airports identified in consultation, and support extended through incentives such as free land, reduced VAT on ATF, cost-sharing for infrastructure and services, and facilitation of land acquisition and airport expansion.

(e): To ensure financial sustainability of UDAN routes, Selected Airline Operators are provided Viability Gap Funding (VGF), three-year exclusivity, and various concessions from Airport Operators and State Governments as per scheme provisions.
