

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Lok Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 870
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th July 2025)
ROUTES UNDER UDAN

870. SHRI K GOPINATH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the routes under the UDAN scheme that remain underserved/unserved by private airlines despite funds being sanctioned for their implementation along with the funds sanctioned and utilized so far, State-wise;**
- (b) the timeline set for achieving the targets under the said scheme and the progress made so far in terms of operational routes;**
- (c) the mechanisms in place to evaluate the operational challenges faced by private airlines on UDAN routes and the steps taken by the Government to address the said challenges; and**
- (d) the measures being taken to ensure that the scheme achieves its core objective of providing equitable air connectivity to underserved regions while preventing airlines from prioritizing only commercially profitable routes?**

ANSWER

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

(a): State-wise details of non-operational Airports and routes therefrom under RCS is attached at Annexure.

(b) The Government launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) on 21.10.2016 for a period of 10 years. 637 RCS routes connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports (including 15 heliports & 02 water aerodromes) have been operationalised under the Scheme, as on 15.07.2025.

(c): To identify operational challenges, the Government conducts periodic reviews with all stakeholders including the airlines. There are various operational challenges, including low passenger demand on some routes, low visibility at certain airports, challenges related to the availability of slots, ATC watch hours, delays in the development of aerodromes, and a shortage of aircraft. To overcome these issues the Government is increasingly adopting technologies like Special VFR, IFR and RNP procedures and coordinates with airports. To ensure the timely development and operationalisation of aerodromes, the relevant State Governments have been requested to identify and prioritize high-potential aerodromes. Further, airlines have been asked to submit business plans for timely operationalisation, before the award of the route.

(d): RCS - UDAN is a market-driven scheme that envisages providing connectivity to unserved and underserved airports of the country through a demand-based transparent bidding process. Only routes that connect an unserved or underserved aerodrome are eligible to be awarded under the Scheme. To ensure equitable air connectivity, the scheme ensures that the routes are not awarded disproportionately to any region or operator.

Annexure

Details of presently Non-Operational Airports developed under RCS

S.N.	State	Airport	Expenditure Incurred in Rs. Crores	RCS Routes to be operationalized / restarted	Remarks
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pasighat	0.07	Jorhat, Shillong	
2.	Gujarat	Bhavnagar	69.18	Pune	
3.	Punjab	Pathankot	5.18	Nil	No awarded routes available.
4.	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	10.34	Nil	
5.	Sikkim	Pakyong	178.75	Nil	
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Kushinagar	108.22	Saharanpur	RCS route connecting Kushinagar to Saharanpur awarded to Spicejet with Q400 type of aircraft.
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh	31.94	Lucknow, Kanpur, Hindon	All routes connecting to Lucknow have been suspended due to the ongoing runway re-carpeting at the airport.
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh	29.57	Lucknow	
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot	32.79	Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Khajuraho	
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Shravasti	32.84	Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi	
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Moradabad	30.41	Lucknow, Kanpur, Hindon, Saharanpur, Dehradun	