

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2417
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17th March 2021
ROUTES UNDER UDAN SCHEME

2417. SHRI IRANNA KADADI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of routes announced under RCS-UDAN since its inception in April 2017 and how many of those are currently working;**
- (b) the number of airports inaugurated all over the country since the scheme came into force;**
- (c) how many of these airports are currently operational; and**
- (d) how much money the RCS fund has collected to date and how much that has been disbursed as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to airlines?**

ANSWER

**Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)**

(a) to (c): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country by making air travel affordable to the masses. Airports Authority of India(AAI), the Implementing Agency, has completed four rounds of bidding under UDAN and identified 778 valid UDAN routes, out of which 325 routes have been operationalized so far. Under RCS - UDAN, 56 unserved and underserved airports (including 5 heliports & 2 water aerodrome) have been operationalized. After recommencement of operations post COVID-19 pandemic, RCS operations are yet to commence at 4 airports.

(d): Under RCS - UDAN, Rs. 1031.20 Crores have been collected through RCS levy in Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust (RACFT). In addition to this, RACFT has also received Rs. 134.07 crore from

States/UTs as its share towards Viability Gap Funding (VGF). RCS Cell, AAI has disbursed Rs. 1085.51 crore to Selected Airline Operators as VGF.
