

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**

Rajya Sabha

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2571

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th August 2021

CONNECTING REMOTE DESTINATIONS BY AIR

2571. SMT PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

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

- (a) whether Government is working towards building more airports for connecting various remote destinations of the country by air; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (DR)
V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

(a) & (b): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. North Eastern States(NER), hilly states and Islands has been included in the Scheme Document as Priority Area(s). Airports Authority of India(AAI), the Implementing Agency has completed four rounds of bidding under UDAN and identified 780 valid UDAN routes so far and out of which, 363 UDAN routes have already commenced connecting 59 UDAN airports including 2 water aerodromes & 5 heliports.

Government of India (GoI) has formulated a Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008 which provides guidelines, procedure and conditions for establishment of new Greenfield Airports in the country. As per Policy, an airport developer, including the State Government, willing to establish an airport is required to send a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA). There is a 2-stage process for approval of the proposal i.e. 'Site-Clearance' stage and 'In-Principle' approval stage. In accordance with this policy, MoCA receives proposals from the State Governments or Airport developers from time to time for establishment of airports. After due examination, the approval for

development of a new Greenfield airport is granted. The responsibility of implementation of airport project including funding of the project rests with the concerned airport developer. Government of India (GoI) has accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country namely Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Sindhudurg and Shirdi in Maharashtra, Bijapur, Hassan, Kalaburagi and Shimoga in Karnataka, Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Jewar (Noida) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Orvakal (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Hollongi (Itanagar) in Arunachal Pradesh. Out of these, 06 Greenfield airports namely, Shirdi in Maharashtra, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala, Orvakal(Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh and Kalaburagi in Karnataka have been operationalized. Proposals for Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, Kottayam in Kerala, Pantnagar in Uttarakhand and Purandar (Pune) in Maharashtra have also been received under the Greenfield Airports Policy.
