

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha**

STARRED QUESTION NO. : 80

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th December 2021

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HELIPADS

80. DR. C.M RAMESH

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

- (a): whether Government proposes to construct new helipads in some important places in different States/UTs in the country?**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor? and**
- (c) whether any existing helipads have been upgraded and renovated during the last three years, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 80 REGARDING "CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HELIPADS" TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021.

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and by making air travel affordable to the masses. Under UDAN scheme, helicopter operations are promoted in priority areas namely Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, North Eastern Region states , Andaman Nicobar island and Lakshadweep islands. Based on the bids received for operationalisation for helicopter routes under UDAN, infrastructure at

heliports are developed under the scheme "Revival of unserved and underserved airports". The Government has approved budgetary support of Rs. 4500 crores for revival/upgradation of existing unserved / underserved airports / airstrips/ heliports/ water aerodromes of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India, Public Sector Undertakings and Civil Enclaves. UDAN is a market driven Scheme where e-bidding is conducted from time to time, to award routes. Interested airlines/helicopter operators, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit proposals at the time of bidding under the scheme.

Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency, has awarded helicopter routes / networks involving 36 heliports, under UDAN, across States namely, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh to provide connectivity to hilly terrains and far-flung areas. State Governments develop these heliports and Government of India reimburses the expenditure incurred for development/upgradation of heliports to the State Governments. Operations of UDAN flights with helicopter have already been commenced from Srinagar (H), New Tehri (H), Gaucher(H), Sahastradhara(H), Haldwani & Chinyalisaur(H) under Non-Scheduled Operator Permit (NSOP).

Further, Ministry of Civil Aviation has released a policy for promotion of Helicopter Operations recently, which, inter-alia, encourages the airport operators/State Governments/UTs to develop helipads. As per the policy State Governments/ UTs are required to set up an Institutional mechanism to facilitate Helicopter Operations by obtaining permissions, approvals, clearances, etc.