

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**  
**Rajya Sabha**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1286**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14th March 2022**

**SALIENT FEATURES AND OBJECTIVES OF UDAN SCHEME**

**1286. SHRI NARHARI AMIN**

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

- (a) the salient features and objectives of the UDAN scheme;**
- (b) the phase-wise details of the number of areas covered under the said scheme in the country till date and the State/Union Territory-wise details thereof especially in the State of Gujarat; and**
- (c) the number of routes made operational out of them?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable for the masses. The salient features of the UDAN scheme are as under:**

**i) The Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN is designed to enable air operations on underserved/unserved routes connecting regional areas, promote balanced regional growth and make flying affordable for masses.**

**ii) Financial incentives in terms of concessions from Central, State Governments and airport operators are extended to Selected Airline Operators to encourage operations from unserved/underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes and to keep the air fare affordable.**

**iii) Support to the Selected Airline Operators in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF). State Governments provide 20% share towards VGF for RCS flights pertaining to their states. However, the share of VGF for North-Eastern states and the Union Territories is 10%.**

**iv) Excise Duty at the rate of 2% is levied on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) drawn by Selected Airline Operators at RCS Airports for RCS Flights for a period of three (3) years from the date of commencement.**

**v) Airlines are required to commit around 50% of the seats as RCS seats (limited to 40 seats) on RCS flights.**

**vi) Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) is created by levying Rs.5000/- on each departure of flights on aircraft having MTOW (Maximum Take-Off Weight) above 40 Tonnes except for the departure of flights on routes in North East Region, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.**

**vii) For balanced regional growth, route allocations are spread equitably across five regions in the country viz. North, South, East, West and North East (with a cap of 30% in a given region).**

**viii) RCS-UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit proposals at the time of bidding under RCS - UDAN.**

**(b) & (c): Under UDAN, 948 valid routes have been awarded across the length and breadth in the country, of which, 405 routes connecting 65 unserved and underserved airports including 8 Heliports & 2 water aerodromes have been operationalized as on 08.03.2022. Airports Authority of India(AAI), the Implementing Agency, has identified Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Kandla, Porbandar, Mundra, Satrunjay Dam (Water Aerodrome-WA), Sabarmati River Front (WA), Statue of Unity (WA) and Keshod in Gujarat for operation of RCS flights. All the airports identified in Gujarat except Keshod have been operationalized under the UDAN Scheme. UDAN is a market driven Scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit proposals at the time of bidding under RCS.**

**\*\*\*\*\***