

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 25
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th July 2022)

ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES OF UDAN

25. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL
SHRI SANJEEV ARORA

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

- (a) whether Government has achieved the objective for which Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Scheme was launched, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor
- (b) the present status of implementation of regional connectivity scheme UDAN in the country especially Maharashtra
- (c) the challenges faced by Government while implementing UDAN scheme
- (d) the contribution of UDAN scheme in the overall growth of aviation sector
- (e) whether Government has set any target to achieve under UDAN scheme during the next five years and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to achieve the target?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) Government of India has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme(RCS)- UDAN with an objective to facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. Under the Scheme 425 UDAN routes have been operationalised by the Selected Airline Operators(SAOs) connecting length and breadth of the country. About one Crore passengers have travelled in UDAN flights, so far.

(b) Under the UDAN scheme, the unserved & underserved airports/airstrips identified/awarded in the state of Maharashtra to operate RCS flights are as under:

- 1.Jalgaon
- 2.Kolhapur
- 3.Sholapur
- 4.Ozar (Nasik)
- 5.Nanded
- 6.Amravati
- 7.Sindhudurg
- 8.Ratnagiri

9. Gondia

SAOs have operationalised UDAN flights from the six airports namely Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Ozar (Nasik), Nanded, Gondia & Sindhudurg.

(c) There is a delay in operationalizing some routes, and also discontinuation of the routes, for reasons which include:-

- i) Adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic
- ii) Non-readiness of Civil Airports/Heliports, which could be related to availability of land, creation of regional infrastructure, obtaining license from the Regulator etc.
- iii) Unsustainability of the operation on the awarded routes.
- iv) Non-readiness of Selected Airlines Operators (SAOs)
- v) Non-availability of slots at metro airports like Mumbai & Pune.

(d) The linkage between the Civil Aviation Sector and Economic Growth is well recognized. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) study shows that the air connectivity would have economic multipliers of 3.1 and employment multiplier of 6.1. Under the Scheme- revival/upgradation of Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodromes, 68 unserved/underserved Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodromes have been upgraded for operation of UDAN flights.

(e) & (f) The Government has planned to develop one hundred airports by 2024 to support UDAN scheme and operationalise 1000 RCS routes during the currency of the Scheme. SAOs have operationalised 425 UDAN routes involving 68 Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodromes across the country. UDAN is an ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted periodically for covering more destinations/stations and routes under the scheme.
