

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 134
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th December 2022)

UDAN SCHEME IN THE STATE OF PUNJAB

*134. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

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

- (a) the total number of airports planned for the State of Punjab under UDAN Scheme;
- (b) the status of flight operations in all those airports;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure commencement of the scheme in Ludhiana, Pathankot, Adampur (Jalandhar) and Bathinda airports;
- (d) the reasons that despite paying Viability Gap Funding (VGF) worth Rs. 3.45 crore for initial three years by the Government of Punjab, flights stopped after the VGF was stopped; and
- (e) whether any new airport is being planned for Punjab under the scheme, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 134 REGARDING "UDAN SCHEME IN THE STATE OF PUNJAB" TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022.

(a) to (c): 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 across the country from unserved and underserved airports in the country and making air travel affordable to the masses. UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. The selection of airlines is made through a transparent bidding process.

Under the UDAN scheme, the unserved & underserved airports/airstrips namely Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda and Pathankot have been identified in the State of Punjab for operation of UDAN flights till the completion of four rounds of bidding. UDAN flights operation from the Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda and Pathankot airports had commenced by the Selected Airline Operators (SAOs).

During UDAN 4.2 bidding round, routes connecting Ludhiana to Hindon and Bhatinda to Hindon have been awarded to the Selected Airline Operators with 19-seater type of aircraft.

(d): As per the provisions of UDAN Scheme document, bids are awarded to the SAOs for a period of three years and therefore VGF (Viability Gap Funding) payment to the SAOs is given for a period of 3 years only.

(e): Beas and Patiala are available in the list of unserved airport in the UDAN Document. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of UDAN operations is developed under "Revival of unserved and underserved airports" scheme.

UDAN is an ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted periodically for covering more destinations/stations and routes and in case, any airline submit any bid for routes in future rounds of bidding, the same may be considered as per provisions of the UDAN Scheme document.
