

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2100
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th March 2023)

AIRPORTS OPERATIONALIZED UNDER UDAN SCHEME

2100. DR. SANTANU SEN

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 47 per cent of the routes and only 39 per cent of the airports operationalized under the UDAN Scheme were functional, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) by when Government will be able to operationalize all routes and airports, details with timeline;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the State of West Bengal has only one airport under the UDAN Scheme, if so, details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government plans to increase the number of airports under UDAN Scheme from West Bengal, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) & (b): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity 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. 469 routes involving 74 airports including 2 Water Aerodrome & 9 Heliports have been operationalised as on 28-02-2023 since inception of the UDAN scheme. During regular monitoring, about 25 to 35 percent of the routes were normally found to be discontinued or found to be intermittently operational due to various factors such as the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, completion of three years of VGF (Viability Gap Funding) support from scheme and commercial reasons. This situation is dynamic in nature and as the demand increases, the routes are expected to resume. More than 116 lakh people have availed benefit of the UDAN scheme since its inception.

The Government has set a target to operationalise 1000 UDAN routes during the currency of the scheme and to revive/develop 100 unserved & underserved

airports/heliports/water aerodromes in the country by 2024 for operation of UDAN flights.

(c) & (d): Airports namely Andal (Durgapur), Cooch Behar, Hashimara, Kalaikunda, Burnpur and Malda have been identified in West Bengal under the UDAN scheme to operate UDAN flights. UDAN is a market driven scheme. Bids are invited by the Airports Authority of India, the Implementing Agency, wherein the interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. In case, any airline submits valid bid for operations of flights under UDAN from airports of West Bengal in future rounds of bidding, the same shall be considered as per the provisions of the Scheme document.
