

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 141
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th August 2024)**

UTKELA AIRPORT

*141. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Utkela Airport in Western Odisha is not currently operational, if so, by when Government plans to commence operations from Utkela Airport
- (b) whether Government is planning to start flight operations from Utkela Airport, if so, details thereof, including timelines and the airlines involved
- (c) if not, the reasons for the same
- (d) whether Government is planning to start flight operations from other airports in Western Odisha, if so, details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 141 FOR REPLY ON 05.08.2024 REGARDING UTKELA AIRPORT ASKED BY SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI .

(a) to (c) : Utkela airport, owned by the Government of Odisha, was identified for development and operation of flights during the first round of bidding under Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN). An amount of Rs. 56.32 crores has been provided under the Scheme for development of the airport.

The airport has been operationalised under UDAN on 31.08.2023. Flights connecting Utkela to Bhubaneswar and Raipur are currently in operation by IndiaOne Air with 9-seater type of aircraft.

(d) & (e) : Besides Utkela, airports at Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Jeypore, Rangeilunda, Amarda and Rairangpur were identified for development and operation of flights under RCS out of which airports at Jharsuguda, Rourkela and Jeypore are presently in operation. Development of Rangeilunda, Amarda and Rairangpur airports under UDAN, being done by State Government, is at planning stage.

UDAN is an ongoing demand driven scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. Based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, interested airlines submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN is developed under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme and operationalised.
