

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 143
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th August 2024)**

AIR CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA

*143. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN

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

- (a) the current status of development and expansion plans for Rourkela Airport in Odisha, and the steps Ministry is taking to accelerate its operationalization to cater to the growing air travel demand in the region; and
- (b) the measures Ministry of Civil Aviation is taking to enhance connectivity?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 143 FOR REPLY ON 05.08.2024 REGARDING AIR CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA ASKED BY SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN.

(a): Rourkela airport, owned by the Steel Authority of India Limited, was identified for development and operation of flights during the 1st round of bidding under Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN). An amount of Rs.57.60 crores has been provided for development of the airport under UDAN. Alliance Air commenced RCS flight operations between Rourkela and Bhubaneswar on 07.01.2023 with ATR-72 type of aircraft. Alliance Air also operates commercial flights on the Rourkela-Kolkata route.

(b): Government launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) in October 2016 to enhance regional and remote air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country. UDAN is a demand-driven Scheme under which airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under the Scheme. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN is developed and operationalised under the scheme.

Further, with the repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation was deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate subject to the compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government and flight schedules approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Hence, it is upto the airline operators to introduce air services to / from any airport in the country depending on their operational & commercial viability.
