

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1446
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th August 2024)**

JHARSUGUDA AND ROURKELA AIRPORTS IN ODISHA

1446. SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ

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

- (a) Government's plans for enhancing air connectivity through Jharsuguda and Rourkela airports in Odisha;
- (b) the measures being taken to attract airlines and improve facilities to boost tourism and economic growth in these regions, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Jharsuguda and Rourkela airports were identified for development and operation of flights during 1st round of bidding under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN).

The routes connecting Jharsuguda have since completed the prescribed tenure under RCS. Presently, Jharsuguda airport is connected with Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and Bangalore through 50 weekly commercial flights.

RCS flights connecting Rourkela to Bhubaneswar is being operated by Alliance Air with ATR-72 aircraft. Alliance Air is also operating commercial flights between Rourkela and Kolkata.

(b) & (c): Besides Jharsuguda and Rourkela, Airports at Jeypore and Utkela have been developed and operationalised under UDAN. Airports at Amarda, Rairangpur and Rangeilunda have been identified for development and operationalisation under UDAN in the State of Odisha.

To promote participation of airlines in Regional Connectivity Scheme -UDAN, various concessions by Central Government, State Government and airport operators are offered to reduce the cost of airline operations on regional routes and providing financial (Viability Gap Funding) support to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such UDAN routes.