

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 34
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd February 2025)

**CHHATTISGARH UNDER REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME
UDAN**

34. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA

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

- (a) the total number of routes initiated and air infrastructure created in Chhattisgarh under Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN?
- (b) the benefits realised thereof;
- (c) the challenges faced in this regard;and
- (d) the proposed measures to be taken in this respect to augment air infrastructure in the State of Chhattisgarh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b) Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), three airports namely Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, and Ambikapur were identified for development and operation of RCS flights in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Jagdalpur, Bilaspur & Ambikapur airports became operational on 21st September 2020, 1st March 2021 & 19th December, 2024 respectively. A total of 16 RCS routes were operationalised under the RCS-UDAN scheme connecting the airports in Chhattisgarh and more than 2,31,000 passengers have been benefitted from the RCS routes operationalised in the state of Chhattisgarh.

(c) Despite its success, the scheme faces challenges such as financial viability of airlines on certain routes. Some routes have witnessed low passenger load factors and maintaining operations on such routes remains a challenge. Sometimes there is a delay in developing/operationalising the airports for various reasons which include:

Delay in completing the work owing to land constraints requirements.

Non-availability of suitable aircraft, aircraft leasing issues, maintenance issues of small aircraft.

(d) UDAN is an market-driven scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes. Interested airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of UDAN operations, is developed under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme.
