

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1126
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th March 2025)

DISCONTINUATION OF UDAN ROUTES

1126. SHRI BABURAM NISHAD
SMT REKHA SHARMA
SHRI BRIJ LAL
SHRI MADAN RATHORE
SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that 114 UDAN routes have been discontinued due to COVID-19, global engine issues and airline shutdowns;
- (b) if so, the measures Government is taking to address such issues;
- (c) the details on the process and timeline for re-bidding and re-awarding the 114 discontinued routes; and
- (d) whether any steps are being taken to mitigate the impact of UDAN flight cancellations due to the poor weather conditions and operational constraints?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), 114 RCS routes have been discontinued due to various reasons such as COVID-19 pandemic, grounding of many aircraft due to supply chain issues, shutting down of airlines and low passenger demand on some routes. The Government regularly monitors the routes that have ceased operations under UDAN and conducts special bidding rounds to operationalize such routes. Routes that were discontinued due to various reasons as mentioned above have been re-bid, awarded and operationalized in the subsequent rounds. Out of the 114 such routes that were discontinued, 26 routes are currently operational under the scheme after being awarded to other Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) in subsequent bidding rounds. Additionally, 20 routes are also being commercially operated by other airlines outside the UDAN scheme, without Viability Gap Funding (VGF) or any other concessions.

In the event of flight cancellations, including UDAN Flights, DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 3, Series M, Part IV titled as "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights".

As per the provision specified in the aforementioned CAR, following facilities shall be offered to the affected passengers:

(i) Meals and refreshments in relation to waiting time to the passengers, who have checked in on time and the airline expects a delay of two hours or more of its original announced scheduled time of departure or a revised time of departure.

Flight Delay upto 2 hour - Drinking Water

Between 2 to 4 hours - Tea / Coffee with snacks / refreshment

More than 4 hours - Meals

(ii) Hotel accommodation, including transfers, in case there is overnight delay.

(iii) If the excepted delay is more than 6 hours, airlines shall offer an option of either an alternate flight / full refund.

Further, to reduce cancellations due to low visibility in poor weather conditions, AAI is increasingly adopting technologies like Special VFR, IFR and RNP procedures at airports.
