

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1143
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th March 2025)

**INCLUSION OF NEW ROUTES AND REROUTING OF FLIGHTS ON
SHORT ROUTES UNDER UDAN SCHEME**

1143. SHRI DHAIRYASHIL MOHAN PATIL

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to include Mumbai-Sindhudurg route under UDAN scheme, if so, its current status and the potential timeline thereof; and
(b) whether Government is considering to redirect short-haul flights operational under the UDAN scheme to the new Navi Mumbai airport to facilitate regional connectivity and ensure effective utilization of small airports?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a): During the 3rd round of bidding under the RCS-UDAN scheme, Sindhudurg Airport was identified for the operation of RCS flights. The RCS route connecting Sindhudurg with Mumbai was operated by Alliance Air till 26.10.2024.

As per the UDAN scheme provisions, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) or other concessions are provided to the Selected Airlines operator for an initial period of three years. Thereafter, any Airlines may operate on these routes commercially, or the State Government may explore the possibility of providing incentives/VGF to the Airline to continue the operations.

(b): Redirecting short-haul flights under the UDAN scheme to Navi Mumbai Airport falls under the broader framework of regional connectivity planning and airport utilization strategies. Any such decision would be based on factors such as operational feasibility, air traffic demand, infrastructure readiness, regulatory approvals, consent of Selected Airline Operators currently operating RCS flights connecting Mumbai etc.
