

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2417**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021)

**AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER RCS-UDAN**

2417. SHRI SANJAY SETH

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

- (a) whether Government has written to State Governments for expediting aviation infrastructure under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN and, if so, the response of the State Governments thereto;
- (b) the achievement made by UDAN since its inception;
- (c) the challenges faced by Government while implementing UDAN Scheme; and
- (d) the contribution of UDAN scheme in the overall development of Civil Aviation Sector?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (d): Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by majority of States / Union Territories (UTs) with Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India (AAI) to facilitate implementation of the UDAN scheme in their respective States / UTs including infrastructure. However, there is a delay in operationalizing some routes/discontinuation of the routes, for reasons which include:-

- i) Non-readiness of civil airports/heliports, which may be related to availability of land, creation of regional infrastructure, obtaining license from the Regulator etc.
- ii) Unsustainability of the operation on the awarded routes.
- iii) Non-readiness of Selected Airlines Operators (SAOs)
- iv) Adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

UDAN has transformed the way people travel in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. Under UDAN, the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency, has awarded 948 routes to connect hitherto unserved/underserved areas, tourist destinations, North Eastern Region, etc. Out of these 948 awarded routes, 403

UDAN routes have commenced connecting 65 UDAN airports including 2 Water Aerodromes and 8 Heliports, as on 14.12.2021. Regional airports like Jharsuguda, Kishangarh, Belgaum, Darbhanga, etc. have been witnessing exponential growth in air traffic. Further, Helicopter Operations have been promoted under UDAN in Priority Areas namely Hilly States, North Eastern States and Islands thus leading to identification of 36 heliports for development. The linkage between the Civil Aviation Sector and Economic Growth is well recognized. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) study shows that the air connectivity would have economic multipliers of 3.1 and employment multiplier of 6.1 .

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