

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3642  
(To be answered on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022)**

**ROUTES UNDER UDAN SCHEME**

**3642. SHRI UPENDRA SINGH RAWAT**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that only twenty two routes out of the ninety four total routes have survived at the completion of the three years subsidy period under the UDAN scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that even after four years of the launch of the scheme, only forty seven per cent of the routes and thirty nine per cent of the unserved and underserved airports were operational by July last year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the procedure being outlined to make the rest of the routes and airports operational along with the time by which the same would be put in place; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to counter the lack of funds and non-availability of land which are the main reasons for the low performance of the UDAN scheme?

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

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

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(a) & (b): Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency, has awarded 948 valid routes after completion of four rounds of bidding under RCS-UDAN. As on 17-03-2022, 409 RCS routes have been operationalized by the Selected Airline Operators (SAOs). To encourage development of UDAN routes by airline operators, SAOs are granted exclusivity for operating air transport services / flights on an RCS Route under the Scheme for a period of 3 years. Out of these 409 routes, 126 routes have completed three years of exclusivity. Subsequent to completion of the exclusivity period, any airline operator may operate flights on that route subject to the prevailing applicable law. Till date about 90 lakh passengers have flown on the flights under the UDAN Scheme.

(c) to (e): There is a delay in operationalizing some routes, and also discontinuation of the routes, for reasons which include:-

i) Adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic

- ii) Non-readiness of civil airports/heliports, which could be related to availability of land, creation of regional infrastructure, obtainment of license from the Regulator etc.
- iii) Unsustainability of the operation on the awarded routes.
- iv) Non-readiness of Selected Airlines Operators (SAOs)

**Airports Authority of India(AAI), the Implementing Agency has identified 154 RCS airports including 14 water aerodromes and 36 helipads so far under UDAN for operation of RCS flights. As on 22.03.2022, 66 airports including 8 heliports and 2 water aerodromes have been operationalized under UDAN.**

**UDAN is a market driven scheme. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation / development for commencement of RCS operations, is developed under "Revival/upgradation of unserved and underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes" Scheme. The Government of India has approved a budget of Rs. 4500 crore for revival of existing unserved / underserved airports / airstrips of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India, Public Sector Undertakings and Civil Enclaves. An amount of Rs. 2097.22 crores has been reimbursed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to AAI till February, 2022 under the scheme. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 2402.78 crores is available under the Scheme for revival/development of Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodromes. Government has set a target to operationalize 100 airports from 2019 to 2024. The year-wise target to operationalize Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodromes is as under:-**

**2021-22 : 32**

**2022-23 : 20**

**2023-24 : 25**

**Six airports/heliports have been operationalized and five heliports/ airports are ready for operation in the current financial year. Revival/development works in respect of another six airports/heliports has been completed.**

**Under UDAN, incentives including VGF and other concessions are provided to the SAOs by the Central, State/UT governments and Airport operators to make the operations sustainable. Also, the State/UT governments have to provide the land for revival/upgradation of the awarded airports wherever required as per the provisions of the scheme document.**

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