

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1609  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023)**

**UDAN SCHEME**

1609. DR. JOHN BRITTAS

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

- (a) the objectives of UDAN Scheme and the targets achieved so far;
- (b) mode of selection of airports and airstrips under the scheme;
- (c) details of airports and routes so far operationalised under UDAN Scheme;
- (d) whether only 48 per cent of the awarded routes could commence operations, out of which only 30 per cent routes completed full concession period of three years; and
- (e) whether Government plans to address the operational challenges in implementation of the UDAN scheme, flagged recently by CAG including the concern that only seven per cent of the awarded routes could sustain the operations beyond the concession period of three years?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a): Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) was launched on 21.10.2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and make air travel affordable to the masses. The scheme seeks to bring air connectivity to tier-2 and tier-3 cities, by taking up existing airstrips identified through UDAN bidding rounds, for development and upgradation under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme.

(b): RCS-UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit proposals at the time of bidding under the Scheme. Revival / up-gradation of unserved and underserved airports is undertaken upon its identification through valid bid and award to the Selected Airline Operator (SAO).

(c) & (d): 517 routes connecting 76 airports, including 9 Heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes, have so far commenced operations.

Out of 1300 valid routes awarded under the Scheme till 5.0 round of UDAN, 501 routes have been cancelled due to various reasons which include shutting down of the airlines, non-readiness of the aerodromes etc. Out of the remaining 799 routes, 517 routes have

commenced so far. 201 routes have completed the prescribed 3 years tenure.

(e): Keeping in view the feedback received from the stakeholders, requisite changes are made in the norms to achieve the objectives of the Scheme. Changes made in the norms recently include :-

(i) Maximum ceiling of 500 km stage length has been removed under UDAN 5.0

(ii) The scheme now lists airports that are ready for operation or are likely to be operational in the next 6 months.

(iii) Routes are being awarded to airline operators only where the airports are ready.

(iv) Route operationalisation plan is to be submitted by airline operators along with the bids.

(v) Selected Airline Operators can now assign its right to operate the route to another airline operator (novation) at any point of time after the execution of the Agreement.

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