

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 89
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th February 2026)

EXPANSION OF UDAN SCHEME

89. SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the UDAN scheme to cover desert regions such as Barmer-Balotra and Jaisalmer which have immense tourism and trade potential and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether similar coverage is being considered for backward and remote districts in States such as Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern States and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.;

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 89 FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2026 REGARDING 'EXPANSION OF UDAN SCHEME' ASKED BY SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL.

(a) to (b): RCS-UDAN is a market driven scheme in which the unserved and underserved airstrips/airports are listed for bidding by airlines to provide connectivity. Bidding rounds are conducted from time to time for covering more destinations and routes under the scheme. Based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, interested airlines submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of UDAN flights is taken up for development under the 'Revival of unserved/underserved airstrips' scheme.

As on 20.01.2026, a total of 657 routes have been operationalised, connecting 93 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes carrying over 160 lakhs domestic passengers on more than 3.36 lakh RCS flights under the scheme.

Uterlai airstrip in Barmer district of Rajasthan, owned by the Indian Air Force was identified under UDAN for development and operationalisation. Development of the civil enclave at Uterlai is contingent upon provision of suitable land by the State Government.

Jaisalmer Airport is owned by the IAF and operated by AAI. It was identified as an underserved airport in the 1st round of bidding under UDAN and developed at a cost of Rs. 10.34 crore.

In the state of Odisha, 04 (four) airports namely Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Utkela, and Jeypore have already been developed and operationalised under the UDAN scheme. Additionally, the Rangeilunda, Amarda and Rairangpur (Dandabose) airstrips in Odisha have been identified for development to operationalise RCS flights.

In the state of Jharkhand, 6 (six) airports namely Bokaro, Dumka, Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, Deoghar and Daltonganj have been identified for development and operation of RCS flights. Jamshedpur and Deoghar airports have already been operationalised. The development works at Bokaro and Dumka airports in Jharkhand have been completed and licensing is in progress. The land for Hazaribagh airstrip is yet to be provided by the State Government. The State Government has been requested to provide consent for the development of Daltonganj Airstrip.

In the State of Chhattisgarh three airports namely Jagdalpur, Ambikapur and Bilaspur were identified and the airports have been developed and operationalised under the UDAN scheme.

A total of 90 routes connecting 10 airports namely Pasighat, Tezu, Hollongi, Jorhat, Lilabari, Rupsi, Tezpur, Dimapur, Shillong and Pakyong have been operationalised in NER under the RCS UDAN scheme. In addition, two heliports, namely Jiribam and Tamenglong, have also been operationalised under the scheme.

The Government has recently announced the launch of the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, and to cater to 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts.
