

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 8
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st July 2025)**

**PROMOTION OF RCS UNDER UDAN SCHEME SPECIALLY IN
MAHARASHTRA**

8. DR. BHAGWAT KARAD

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

- (a) the role of the UDAN scheme in making air travel more affordable and in supporting balanced regional development, especially in States like Maharashtra;
- (b) the new air routes launched so far under the scheme and whether Government is planning to include more destinations;
- (c) whether Government is giving priority to connecting remote, aspirational and interior districts such as Gondia, Gadchiroli, Akola and Nanded in the State of Maharashtra, along with other similar regions in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of such plans and proposed timelines?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): The Government launched the RCS-UDAN Scheme on 21.10.2016 with an aim to take flying to the masses by making it affordable, convenient and sustainable air travel for passengers with access to various parts of India. The scheme is working as a catalyst in establishing an integrated eco-system which is leading to significant growth of the civil aviation sector which in turn is also promoting tourism, increasing employment and leading to balanced regional growth across the country, including Maharashtra.

Since the commencement of the RCS-UDAN scheme, 637 no.of RCS routes have been operationalized connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country. Under the UDAN Scheme, approx 1.54 crore domestic passengers have travelled on more than 3.14 lakh RCS flights as on July 15, 2025.

In Maharashtra, seven airports namely Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Nanded, Nasik, Gondia, Sindhudurg & Amravati have already been developed and operationalised under the UDAN Scheme. Sholapur airport in Maharashtra has also been developed

under the scheme and commercial flight operations have started.

Akola is available in the list of unserved airstrips under the UDAN Scheme for bidding. If any airline submits valid bids for connecting Akola in future rounds of UDAN, the same will be considered as per the provisions of the Scheme. The Government has recently announced the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country and to cater 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.
