

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 9
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st July 2025)**

**REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME FOR BALANCED REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

9. DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE

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

- (a) the role of the UDAN Scheme in providing affordable air travel and promoting balanced regional development;
- (b) the new routes launched under the scheme and whether Government plans to add new destinations under the scheme;
- (c) whether Government plans to prioritise connecting remote, hilly, and aspirational districts in the State of Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): Under the RCS-UDAN scheme, the Government has been taking concrete steps to take flying to the masses by making it affordable, convenient and also provide safe, secure, affordable and sustainable air travel for passengers with access to various parts of India and the world and establish an integrated ecosystem 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.

Since the commencement of the scheme, 637 RCS routes have been operationalized connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country.

Seven airports namely Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Nanded, Nasik, Gondia, Sindhudurg & Amravati have already been developed and operationalised in Maharashtra under the UDAN Scheme. Sholapur airport in Maharashtra has also been developed under the scheme and commercial flight operations have started.

The government has recently announced to launch the modified UDAN Scheme to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country including

Maharashtra 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.
