

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 462
(To be answered on the 6th February 2025)**

OPERATIONALIZATION OF AIRSTRIPS

**462. SHRI BRIJMOHAN AGRAWAL
 SHRI DULU MAHATO**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government would hold suo motu meetings with various State Governments, including Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, to discuss the operationalization of unused/underutilized airstrips within their jurisdiction, keeping in view of the potential for regional employment opportunities;**
(b) whether the Government is aware that the activation of the said unused/underutilized airstrips would contribute to regional economic growth and create new employment opportunities in these areas;
(c) if so, the details of action plan for the activation and operationalization of the said airstrips; and
(d) if not, the reasons therefor along with the timeline proposed in this regard?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) on 21st October, 2016. RCS-UDAN is a market driven mechanism. A tentative list of unserved and underserved airstrips of the country, including the airstrips recommended by the State Governments/PSU/Private owners for inclusion in the Scheme are added to the list. Bidding rounds are conducted from time to time to cover more destinations/stations and routes and based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, interested airlines submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN. Once identified through a valid bid, consent of State Government/owner of the airstrip is sought for provision of land, free from encumbrances and development of the airport.

As of now, 619 routes have been operationalized connecting 88 airports

including 53 unserved airstrips. In the State of Chhattisgarh, Jagdlapur, Bilaspur and Ambikapur have been identified, developed and operationalised under the UDAN Scheme. In the State of Jharkhand 06 airports namely, Bokaro, Dumka, Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, Deoghar and Daltonganj have been identified for development and operation of flights. Jamshedpur and Deoghar Airports have been operationalised. Development works at Bokaro and Dumka have been completed and licensing is in progress. State Government of Jharkhand is yet to provide the required land for development of Hazaribagh and Daltonganj Airport.

On operationalisation of an airport, numerous opportunities for economic growth and employment are created in the ecosystem. Trade, industry and tourism in the region are also likely to get a boost.
