

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
Lok Sabha**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 974**

**( TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8th February 2024 )**

**EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF AIRPORTS**

**974. SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA  
SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY  
SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) the plans and timelines drawn for expansion and modernization of airports to improve connectivity;**
- (b) the initiatives to promote regional connectivity and make air travel accessible in underserved areas; and**
- (c) the initiatives taken to make air travel accessible to domestic islands which are tourist attractions?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN.  
(DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

**(a) The expansion of airports, including upgradation of infrastructures/facilities at airports, is a continuous process, which is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or the concerned Airport Operators depending upon operational requirements, traffic, demand, commercial feasibility etc. AAI and other Airport Operators have embarked upon a Capex Plan for more than Rs.98,000 crore ,including around Rs.25,000 crore by AAI during 2019-24, for development/upgradation/modernisation of various brownfield airports and developing Greenfield Airports.**

**Under the UDAN scheme, 76 airports, including 2 water aerodromes and 9 Helipads in different regions of the country, have been developed and operationalised till date. During 2023-24, it was decided to revive 50 additional Airports/Heliports/Water Aerodrome for improving regional air connectivity under the Scheme.**

**(b) Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) 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. UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under the Scheme. An unserved/underserved airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of UDAN operations, is developed under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme.;**

**(c) Under the UDAN scheme, special provisions have been made for the Priority Areas which include the hilly states and the islands of Andaman Nicobar island and Lakshadweep. The following airports and water-aerodromes(WA) have been identified for development in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands under UDAN.**  
**Andaman & Nicobar: Shibpur, Car Nicobar, Campbell Bay, Shaheed Dweep (WA), Swaraj Dweep (WA), Long Island (WA), Mayabunder (WA)**  
**Lakshadweep: Minicoy (WA), Kavaratti (WA), Agatti (WA), Kalpeni(WA), Kadmat(WA), Bangaram(WA), Kiltan(WA), Bitra(WA)**

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