

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 524
(To be answered on the 25th July 2024)**

UPGRADATION OF OLD AIRPORTS

524. SMT MALVIKA DEVI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to upgrade and maintain the old airports and infrastructure;**
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to set up airports in tier three cities with population of over 1 lakh; and**
- (c) the steps being taken in tier three cities to start flights to bigger cities?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): The upgradation of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Airport Operators from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand / willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports.

(b) & (c): 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. The scheme seeks to bring air connectivity to tier-2 and tier-3 cities, by taking up existing airstrips identified through UDAN bidding rounds, for development and upgradation under the 'Revival of unserved and underserved airports' scheme. On conclusion of five rounds of bidding under the scheme, 579 routes connecting 85 unserved and underserved airports, including 13 heliports & 02 water aerodromes, have been operationalised.
