

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1453
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th August 2024)

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE STATE OF BIHAR

1453. SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA

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

- (a) the current status of international airports in the State of Bihar and international connectivity from Bihar;
- (b) whether Bihar is lagging behind in international connectivity; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to declare Darbhanga Airport as an international airport in view of its success in terms of domestic traffic?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): The State of Bihar has two customs-notified airports, located in Gaya and Patna. Currently, there are no scheduled international flights from these airports. Indian designated carriers are free to mount scheduled operations to/from any International/ Customs airport to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral Air Service Agreements (ASAs) concluded by India with foreign countries. The Government only provides an enabling environment for the operation of international flights and has no direct role in the start of flights as the commencement of international flights by Indian carriers from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of scheduled airlines based on traffic demand, airports flight handling capacity, safety infrastructure and economic viability of the route.

(c): Declaration of an airport as an International Airport depends upon traffic potential, demand from airlines for the operation of international flights, and bilateral Air Services Agreement besides provision of Ground Lighting facilities, Instrument Landing System, runway length, Immigration, Health and Animal & Plant Quarantine services etc. Currently, no such proposal for declaration of Darbhanga Airport as an International Airport is under consideration in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.