

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 1
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st July 2025)

DIRECT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM PATNA AIRPORT

*1. DR. BHIM SINGH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Patna airport is named as "Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport" while there are no direct international flights operational from here;
- (b) whether such situation is unfavourable and economically disadvantageous for a State like Bihar with such a high population density and migrant workforce; and
- (c) whether Government is making any concrete plans to start direct international flights to Gulf countries and South-East Asia etc., if so, the status and the probable timeline thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.01 FOR REPLY ON 21.07.2025 REGARDING "DIRECT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM PATNA AIRPORT" ASKED BY DR. BHIM SINGH.

(a) to (c): Patna is a customs notified airport. Presently, there are no direct international schedule flights operational from Patna Airport. Moreover, the government has provided an enabling environment for the growth of the civil aviation sector. Accordingly, Patna has been included in the list of 18 tourist gateway destinations from where Indian carriers and carriers of 5 SAARC countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and 10 ASEAN countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines and Laos) can operate unlimited frequencies to designated points in these countries.

Further, in accordance with Air Services Agreements (ASA) signed between India and the foreign countries, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport including Patna to foreign destinations including Gulf countries and South-East Asia. However, the start of international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of the airlines on the basis of the economic viability of the route and other associated factors.
