

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1622
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th August 2025)**

CHANGE IN THE CODE NAME OF THE GAYA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1622. DR. BHIM SINGH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the IATA code of the International Airport in Gaya district of Bihar is GAY, which people consider socially and culturally offensive and uncomfortable;
- (b) whether Government has been made aware of any complaints, suggestions or public sentiments in this regard, if so, the response or discussion by Government on the same; and
- (c) whether Government is considering to change the code name GAY to a more respectful and culturally appropriate code, if not, the reasons therefor, and if so, the current status of this process and the likely timeline thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): The three-letter airport codes, also known as IATA location identifiers, are assigned by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to facilitate identification of airports across various travel-related systems and processes. These codes are generally assigned using the first three letters of the location's name where the airport is situated.

Requests for changing the code of Gaya have been received in the past by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority of India.

IATA location codes are primarily intended for commercial airline operations and are issued at the request of airline operators. Air India had earlier approached IATA seeking change of the existing airport code. However, IATA has conveyed that under the provisions of IATA Resolution 763, assigned three-letter codes are considered permanent and are altered only under exceptional circumstances, usually involving air safety concerns.
