

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1783
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th March 2021)**

CIVIL ENCLAVE IN BIHTA BIHAR

1783. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a civil enclave is proposed to be set up with the cost of Rs.937crore for the combined use of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Indian Airforce at Bihta in Bihar;**
- (b) the area of land which was supposed to be provided free of cost by Bihar Government and the area of land which has already been provided;**
- (c) whether even tender for the construction of Bihta airport could not be invited so far; and**
- (d) if so, the rational behind this, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (d): Considering the limitations of runway at Patna airport for operation of wide bodied aircraft, a Civil Enclave at Bihta has been proposed for combined use of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Indian Air Force (IAF). The existing runway length of Bihta Airport is 8200 feet which can cater to A-320/A-321 type of aircraft without load penalty. However, there is feasibility for extension of runway at Bihta airport to 12,000 feet making it suitable for operation of wide bodied aircraft like B-777/B-787 to facilitate international operations as well as growth of cargo. The State Government has provided 108 acre of land free of cost to AAI for development of Bihta airport. However to make the proposed airport suitable for international operations, Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken up the matter with the State Government of Bihar for providing 191.5 acre of land for Runway extension, which is yet to be handed over to AAI. Further, the invitation to tender for any project depends on completion of pre-requisite formalities, which inter-alia include availability of land for the proposed development.
