

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3212
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th March 2021
DEVELOPMENT OF RAXAUL AIRPORT BIHAR

3212. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) owns 217.09 acres of land in Raxaul in Bihar which has a 1372 meter runway that is left dilapidated condition;**
- (b) whether Raxaul is included in the additional hundred airports where Government is starting air services by the year 2024;**
- (c) whether any airport of Bihar is included in the said hundred airports;**
- (d) whether flight services for Nepal can also be started from Raxaul as the same is located on the borders of Nepal; and**
- (e) by when, Government plans to start the operation of Raxaul airport, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)**

(a) and (b): Raxaul is a non-operational airport of Airports Authority of India(AAI) covering land area of 213 acres. The present runway dimensions are 1372 m x 30.5 m.

Raxaul figures in the tentative list of the unserved airports in the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN(Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) document, but no valid bid has been received for connecting Raxaul under UDAN, so far. An airport which is included in the awarded routes of RCS - UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of RCS operations, is developed under "Revival of

unserved and underserved airports" scheme. As no valid bid has been received for connecting Raxaul under UDAN, it does not figure in the list of 100 airports identified for revival/development so far by the year 2024.

(c): Darbhanga Airport of Bihar figures in the list of 100 airports for revival/development. The Selected Airline Operator has already commenced RCS flights connecting Darbhanga to Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi on 08.11.2020.

(d): Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport including Raxaul, in case, it is declared as international airport to foreign destinations under the ambit of Bilateral Air Service Agreements concluded by India with foreign countries, subject to availability of customs and immigration facilities etc. However, start of international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of the airlines on the basis of economic viability of the route and other associated factors.

(e): After repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation market was deregulated. Consequently, airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type for selecting whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate across the country subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs). Thus, it is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and their commercial viability, in compliance with the RDG. However, the Ministry regularly interacts with the airlines and other stakeholders from time to time with an aim to improve air connectivity.
