

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 35
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th December 2023)

**DIRECT FLIGHT SERVICE TO GULF COUNTRIES FROM PATNA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE STATE OF BIHAR**

35. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY

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

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether direct flights to Gulf countries (Dubai, Oman, Saudi etc.) are available from Patna airport or other airports in the State of Bihar
- (b) if so, the details thereof and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government till date to operate direct flights from these airports in Bihar so that lakhs of people of Bihar can be benefitted?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) and (b): Currently, no direct flight to Gulf countries (Dubai, Oman, Saudi Arabia, etc.) is available from Patna Airport or other airports in the State of Bihar.

(c) 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 under the ambit of bilateral air service agreements concluded by India with foreign countries as per mutually agreed capacity limits.

The government has provided an enabling environment for growth of civil aviation sector. Patna Airport has been included in the list of 18 tourist gateways destinations from where the 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 subject to availability of slots at the airport. 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.