

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4371
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014
AIR CONNECTIVITY TO SMALL TOWNS
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the State capitals and other major cities of the country having air link with Ahmedabad;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to link Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar-Rajkot- Surat and Vadodara with the capitals and the major cities of the remaining States and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether poor air connectivity between the Saurashtra-Kutch region and the other parts of North Gujarat is causing hurdles to the development of tourism in the State; and
- (d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

- (a): At present Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Bhopal, Lucknow, Chandigarh and Jaipur are connected with Ahmedabad by Scheduled Domestic Air Operation.
- (b): No such proposal has been received from the Scheduled Domestic Carriers to link Ahmedabad - Bhavnagar - Rajkot - Surat and Vadodara with the Capitals and major cities of the remaining States.
- (c) to (d): With regard to poor connectivity between Saurashtra - Kutch region and other parts of north Gujarat, it is stated that Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.