

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2006  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015  
FLIGHTS TO SMALL CITIES  
Bhatt Smt.Ranjanben

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

- (a) whether the number of flights operating to small cities of the country including Gujarat have decreased to a great extent during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action to increase the number of flights to small cities of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) & (b) No such analysis has been carried out by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). At present, scheduled air services are available to/from 77 airports which includes small airports also. With regard to air connectivity in the state of Gujarat, at present scheduled air services are available to/from Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Surat, Jamnagar, Vadodara & Porbandar.

(c) & (d) The Government of India has deregulated the air operations in domestic sector and it has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) with a view to achieve better air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, therefore 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 with RDGs.