

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2317

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2000

BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR TAPPING OF MARKET

VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken up with the UK Government to allow Air India to pick up passengers from London to the US;
- (b) if so, whether bilateral landing rights have been discussed in a meeting;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a potential market of London based passengers for USA, but Air India is not allowed to tap this market;
- (e) if so, whether the traffic on the India-UK sector has been increasing over the years but number of airline seats have not kept the similar pace; and
- (f) if so, the extent to which the Government have been able to succeed in tapping this traffic?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION
(PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): During the last round of bilateral negotiations with the Government of UK held on 1-2 February, 2000, an agreement was reached that Air India could exercise traffic right beyond London to USA on 16 services per week instead of 10 earlier.

(e) and (f): The traffic on India-UK sector has been showing a rising trend. The UK market is served directly as well as over Europe. Overall capacity is regularly monitored. Recently, Air India has also contracted a Code-share/Block Space Arrangement agreement with Virgin Atlantic Airlines of UK for three unutilised frequencies per week between Delhi and London. This will increase Air India's exploitation of this market.