

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4181
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
FLIGHTS FROM KERALA TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
K. FRANCIS GEORGE;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any requests/proposal from the Government of Kerala to operate more international flights including flights to European countries from Kerala for the convenience of the air passengers working abroad;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which more international flights are likely to be introduced?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b) and (c): State Government of Kerala has requested for introduction of more services from airports in Kerala to destinations in Europe and Gulf. Besides Air India and Indian Airlines, who are operating international services from Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Calicut in Kerala, Gulf air Kuwait Airways, Oman Air, Qatar Airways, Silk Air and Air Lanka are presently operating to/from Thiruvananthapuram. The designated airline of Oman (Oman Air) has already been granted access to the newly declared international airport at Cochin. Cochin has also been offered as a point of call in place of Chennai to the designated airline of Saudi Arabia and a commitment has been given to UAE (Dubai) to grant either Cochin or Thiruvananthapuram to their designated carrier, Emirates by September, 2002. Indian Airlines and Air India have also enhanced their operations from airports in Kerala, particularly Cochin.