

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5295
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN AIRLINES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government restrictions have forced foreign airlines to opt out of India as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 17, 2002 under the Caption `Cruise control govt. restrictions made foreign airlines think twice before setting up shop in India`;
- (b) whether India has bilateral agreement with as many as 96 countries all over the world;
- (c) if so, whether out of 96, 46 airlines have exercised the options of operating out of India;
- (d) if so, the main reasons therefor;
- (e) the efforts being made by the Government to attract foreign airlines to operate from India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

a): No, Sir. Government has not placed any restriction forcing foreign airlines to opt out of India. Bilateral air services agreements are concluded on the basis of principle of reciprocity and equality of benefits to both sides. To achieve this the airlines sometimes enter into commercial arrangements to compensate for imbalances in operations and advantages.

(b),(c),(d) and (e): India has so far entered into bilateral Air Services Agreements with 97 countries. Presently a total of 50 foreign airlines are operating scheduled international services to/from India. Although traffic rights have been granted to foreign airlines for operating international services to/from India under these agreements, actual operations are decided by airlines concerned according to their commercial judgement and comparative yields on different routes.