

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:463
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2009
OPERATION OF FOREIGN AIRLINES
Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the operation of foreign airlines in the non-domestic sector in the country has increased substantially during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review its policy under which the Ministry/the appropriate authority accords air traffic routes to foreign airlines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.463 for reply on 06/08/2009 regarding "Operation of Foreign Airlines"

(a) & (b) : In the summer of 2004, foreign airlines operated 711 services per week to/from India which has increased to 1315 services per week in the summer of 2009. The increase is around 85 per cent over 5 years. Correspondingly, the number of passengers has risen from around 14 million to 27 million to/from India in that period. The increase is around 90 per cent.

(c) & (d): Traffic rights for operation of international air services are specified in bilateral Air Services Agreements concluded with the various foreign countries and is part of an on-going process, depending upon traffic demand, balance of benefit to Indian carriers, overall interest of Indian economy together with diplomatic / political considerations. These agreements are based on the principles of sovereignties of nations and reciprocity, in which a balance of opportunities and benefits are paramount.

Liberalisation in international services benefits the national economy as a whole with the tourism and commerce sectors and to address the need of the large NRI population working overseas. Also, liberal exchange of traffic rights has helped in adding capacity on international routes for benefit of the travelling people and also opening up commercial opportunities for Indian carriers. In view of this, there is no change contemplated in the existing policy.