

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3115

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012

AUCTIONING OF DEPARTURE SLOTS AT AIRPORTS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha

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

- (a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) allots departure slots at all airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the criteria adopted by the DGCA for allotment of departure slots;
- (c) whether the Union Government is considering auctioning of departure slots at major airports in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including its impact on the operating cost of domestic airlines;
- (e) whether the Union Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any policy/guidelines or appoint a Committee in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations of the said Committee along with the reaction of the Government thereon?

**Answer**

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b) : No, Madam. Slots are allocated by the respective airport operators, i.e., Airports Authority of India (AAI) in case of airports managed by them and JVC Operators for airports managed by them in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in line with IATA World Slot Guidelines (WSG).

(c) & (d) : It is proposed to introduce auction for allocation of vacant slots in peak hours, on an experimental basis.

With the increase in air traffic at the major airports in the country, the capacity of some airports has become constrained. Therefore, to ensure the most efficient use of airport infrastructure and in order to maximize benefits to the greatest number of airport users, it is felt essential to have a policy for allocation of constrained or limited airport capacity to airlines and other aircraft operators through a transparent and equitable mechanism so as to ensure viable airport and air transport operations.

The method of auction is intended to ensure the most efficient use of airport infrastructure through a transparent and equitable mechanism to allot and utilize the vacant prime-time slots at airports where capacity is constrained due to lack of sufficient infrastructure.

This method is not likely to have any significant impact on the operating cost of the airlines.

(e) & (f) : The Government has already formulated and announced the policy guidelines for slot allocation.