

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3885
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013
OPEN SKY POLICY
Pangi Shri Jayaram;Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to adopt an Open Sky Policy with ASEAN;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the potential increase in air-traffic by adopting such a policy, especially to the North East Region;
- (c) whether the Government's liberal air service agreements with various countries led to presence of a large number of foreign players resulting in traffic congestion and delays at majority of the airports in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken to ease the traffic congestion and avoid delays in air services; and
- (e) whether the presence of foreign players and increase in number of operators in any way has helped reducing the air passenger fares and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): At present there is no Open Sky Policy with the ASEAN countries. However, there is a proposal for entering into Multilateral Agreement on Air Services with the Government of the Member States of ASEAN countries. The provisions of such Multilateral Agreement are to be based on principles of sovereignty of nations, nationality of carriers and reciprocity in terms of commercial opportunities for the airlines of the participating Member States, taking into account views of stakeholders;

(c) & (d): No Madam. The development /up-gradation of facilities at the airports for improved services and management of Air Traffic is a continuous process and Airports Authority of India (AAI) has deployed / planned measures viz. radar integration, Harmonization of Upper Airspace, Central Air Traffic Management, Performance Based Navigation, Standard Instrument Departures, Standard Terminal Arrival Routes, cross runway operations etc. to meet increased air traffic demand and eliminate delays in the air and on the ground;

(e): The air passenger fares are dependent on various factors such as demand, cost of operations, fuel price, taxes etc. Increase in number of foreign carrier operations is likely to result in increased competition and competitive air fares to the customers.