

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3886
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013
STAR ALLIANCE
Das Shri Khagen

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India proposes to join Star Alliance;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) the advantages and disadvantages of joining Star Alliance;
- (d) the details of other private airlines from India and other major international airlines that joined Star Alliance; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in regard to above?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The process of AI's integration into Star was put on hold by Star Alliance on 1st August, 2011, even though Air India had met all the joining requirements by the stipulated timeline of 31st July, 2011. Thereafter, Air India has had several meetings with Star Alliance to pursue the matter. However, so far Star has not given any concrete response to Air India in the matter.

(c): Advantages expected to accrue to Air India from joining Star Alliance are :

- (i) Improved brand image
- (ii) Expected increase in code share arrangements with Star Alliance carriers
- (iii) Increase in FFP Partnership with Star Alliance carriers
- (iv) Participation in various Star Alliance products and
- (v) Enhanced revenues.

However, the disadvantages of joining Star Alliance is that Air India would not be allowed to have a code share arrangement and/or FFP partnership with any airline from other competing alliances, like Sky Team and One world.

(d): A list of international airlines which are members of Star Alliance is given in Annexure-1

(e): Government has been supporting Air India in its efforts to join Star Alliance.