

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2225

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

JET ETIHAD DEAL

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

- (a) the details of the year in which the landing slots at the Heathrow Airport in London allocated to the Indian carriers and numbers thereof, carrier-wise;
- (b) the details of the current utilizations of these landing slots, carrier-wise;
- (c) whether Jet Airways has entered into a commercial arrangement with the Etihad airways against the slot and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the private airlines are entitled to enter into commercial transaction on the landing slots and if so, the details thereof;and
- (e) if not, whether any permission was sought by any airlines from the Government on such commercial transaction and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b) At present, only Air India and Jet Airways have been designated to operate to London (Heathrow Airport). As per information provided by these carriers, Air India was allocated 4 pair of slots at Heathrow Airport from time to time, out of which 3 pair of slots are being utilized by them and 1 pair of slot has been leased out to Delta Air. Further, Jet Airways was allocated 1 pair of slots in November, 2005 and subsequently bought 3 pairs of slots in 2005 and 2006, out of which 1 pair of slots has been sold by them in 2009 to Oman Air. They have further sold the remaining 3 pairs of slots to Etihad airways which has subsequently been leased back to them.

(c) to (e) Jet Airways has informed that they have sold and leased back the three slots from Etihad airways following due compliance with relevant statutes, rules and regulations and continues to use these slots for its operations. The slots are permissions to use runway and airport infrastructure, and being assets of the concerned airports, are allocated by them as per their procedure. At Heathrow (London), the airlines are free to swap/ trade these slots, with any other airline through lease or buy it from other airlines. This operates on principle of willing buyers and willing sellers. As demand exceeds supply at Heathrow, slot trading is now the principle means of entry. This is purely the function of airport coordination limited of Heathrow airport and the concerned airlines. The Government of India or Ministry of Civil Aviation has no role to play in case of slot allocation at any foreign airports, including Heathrow airport.