

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2289

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

ADDITIONAL SEATS TO ABU DHABI

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has agreed to increase seats between the country and Abu Dhabi;
- (b) if so, the details of the seats allotted to various airlines, airlines-wise including the benefits accrued to Air India;
- (c) the reasons for accepting the demand of additional seating capacity for the low-cost carriers like IndiGo and Go Air when they do not have adequate aircrafts infrastructure and pilots;
- (d) whether Abu Dhabi is expected to invest the in country particularly in aviation infrastructure as a Quid Pro Quo of this gesture;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (b) The Ministry has agreed to increase capacity entitlement between India and UAE(Abu Dhabi) on reciprocal basis and an MOU has been signed between both the countries on 24th April, 2013. However, no seats have been allocated to any carrier so far since Government approval of the MOU is awaited.

(c) The Government while assessing the need for additional seating capacity takes into account the demand of all the designated carriers including low cost carriers with a view to provide fair opportunity to all carriers to grow. The allocation is however done on the basis of firm deployment/ operational plan of the carriers who are required to start operations against the allocated rights within the approved schedule period. Go Air is not a designated carrier for international operations.

(d) & (e) The geopolitical, economic, diplomatic and strategic considerations are vital factors which were taken into account while entering into bilateral air services negotiations with UAE (Abu Dhabi).