

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2640
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC AIRLINES ROUTES
Kumar Shri P.;Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to abolish five year /20 aircraft rule, which prevents Indian registered airlines from flying abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also considering to change this rule because no such restriction applicable to foreign airlines operating into India and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Air India is headed for further trouble as the Government plans to open foreign routes to new domestic airlines and allow giant Airbus A380s of foreign airlines to land at domestic airports and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Air India has objected to the permission for A380 aircraft operations in India and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes Madam. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has moved a proposal to amend the existing eligibility criteria of operation of international scheduled air transport services by removing the requirement of a minimum of 5 years` experience of continuous operation of domestic scheduled air transport services and fleet size requirement of a minimum of 20 aircraft. It is also a fact that no such restriction is applicable to foreign airlines operating into India. ;

(d) to (e): No Madam. Any plan to open foreign routes is based on the proposal received from Indian scheduled carriers. Air India is given first priority before granting any traffic rights to other Indian carriers. The operation of A-380 aircraft to India have been allowed at Delhi International Airport (Pvt.) Ltd., Mumbai International Airport (Pvt.) Ltd., Hyderabad International Airport (Pvt.) Ltd. and Bengaluru International Airport (Pvt.) Ltd. which are having required infrastructure. However, these airports have to get certification from Directorate General of Civil Aviation for A-380 operations and make adequate preparations in terms of various services required for A-380 flights. Air India expressed their views that they do not have objection if A-380 operations are allowed within the overall traffic entitlements in the beginning from Mumbai airport. They have also expressed the view that the operations to other airport may be considered after reviewing the impact.