

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1454
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th March 2020)

GROUND HANDLING BY AIR INDIA AT US AIRPORTS

1454. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America (USA) has banned ground handling by Air India at five airports in the USA;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that ground handling services at most international stations have been outsourced through a transparent bidding process; and
- (d) whether this issue has been taken up with the appropriate forum for resolution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

- (a): U.S. Transport department served a notice to the Indian carriers requiring any Indian airline serving the U.S. - India market with its own aircraft to report all of its arrangements for ground-handling at each U.S. airport it serves. U.S. authorities made a tentative decision to amend the operating authority of Indian carriers to suspend rights to self-handle at U.S. airports.
- (b): The Air Transport Agreement signed in 2005 between U.S. and India established rights of carriers of both countries to perform their own ground handling. Due to a decision of the Cabinet Committee on Security in 2007 prohibiting foreign airlines from performing self-handling American carriers were prohibited from undertaking self-handling functions.
- (c): Yes, Sir.
- (d): Approval has been granted by the Cabinet Committee on Security to grant a special dispensation, and to allow self-handling, to the designated airlines of the countries with whom the bilateral Air Transport Agreement/Air Services Agreement contains a clause permitting self-handling at Indian airports (except at civil enclaves and joint user defence airfields) available to them as points of call under the Agreement between such country and India. This special dispensation has been allowed subject to the condition of compliance with additional security measures as stipulated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation from time to time and implemented under oversight of BCAS and Central Security Agencies (CSAs). Necessary orders allowing self-handling under the special dispensation have been issued by BCAS. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has shared these orders with MEA for updating the American authorities.
