

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1458
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th March 2020)**

DIRECT FLIGHT BETWEEN BHUBANESWAR AND DUBAI

1458. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN

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

- (a) whether any action has been taken by the Ministry on the request of Chief Minister of Odisha to introduce direct international flight between Bhubaneswar and Dubai to meet the growing demand of people of Odisha for international travel and in the absence of direct flights from Odisha to Dubai and Middle East countries, the passengers face immense difficulty to go to the desired destinations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (c): Indian carriers are free to mount services from any point in India including Bhubaneswar International Airport to international destinations available under bilateral agreements including Dubai, whereas foreign airlines can operate only to/from designated points of call available under respective bilateral agreements. Bhubaneswar is already available as a point of call for designated carriers of SAARC (except Afghanistan and Pakistan) and ASEAN countries with unlimited frequency/capacity entitlements. It is, therefore, upon the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and their commercial viability and the Government does not interfere in their operational plan. In order to pursue the matter, a meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa, in which the officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation and various Indian and foreign airlines participated.
