

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 968
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th July 2021)

**PERMISSION TO FOREIGN CARRIERS TO OPERATE OUT OF KANNUR
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

968. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS

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

(a) whether Government has received a request from Kerala State Government for granting permission to foreign carriers to operate out of Kannur International Airport and extending ASEAN Open Sky Policy to the same; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala had submitted a Memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 13 July 2021 wherein it has been requested to grant permission to foreign carriers to operate out of Kannur International Airport. It has also been requested to extend ASEAN Open Sky Policy to Kannur International Airport. The Government had also received a letter dated 01.07.2019 and a Memorandum dated 01.10.2019 from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala regarding the same issues.

(b) Kannur International Airport was commissioned in December 2018. Within a period of one year, by Winter 2019 schedule, Indian carriers were operating 65 international services per week from Kannur, before scheduled international commercial passenger services were suspended on account of COVID-19 pandemic.

Presently, 18 tourist destinations in India are available for ASEAN countries to/from which designated carriers of India as well as designated carriers of ASEAN countries can mount unlimited operations. This was a one-time policy decision. The Government is not incorporating any new airport into the existing list of 18 tourist destinations. There are three airports in Kerala viz. Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode and Kochi which have already been included in 18 tourist destinations.

Indian designated carriers are free to mount scheduled operations to/from any international airport including Kannur International Airport to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral air service agreements concluded by India with foreign countries.
