

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 20
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29th November 2021
PERMISSION TO FOREIGN AIRLINES TO KANNUR
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

20. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala Government has represented numerous times seeking to permit foreign airlines to Kannur International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will review the present bilateral policy facilitating foreign airlines to Kannur International Airport?

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

(a) and (b) 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.

(c) 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.

Currently, due to significant imbalance in the number of points of call in favour of foreign carriers, the Government of India is not granting any non-metro airport as a new point of call to any foreign carrier for the purpose of operating passenger services. However, 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.
