

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1307
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14th March 2022)**

**FLIGHT CONNECTIVITY FROM TRIVANDRUM TO AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND**

1307. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS

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

- (a) whether Government has noted the demand for making the Trivandrum International Airport as a point of call for flights to Australia and New Zealand considering the magnitude of South Indian Diaspora in Australia and New Zealand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and response thereto;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala has requested the Central Government to make Trivandrum International Airport as a point of call for direct flights to Australia and New Zealand; and
- (d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (d) The Government has received a letter from the Government of Kerala in February 2022, requesting that Trivandrum International Airport may be made a point of call for direct flights to Australia and New Zealand.

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.

Indian designated carriers are free to mount scheduled operations to/from any international airport including Trivandrum International Airport to foreign destinations including Australia and New Zealand under the ambit of bilateral air service agreements concluded by India with foreign countries. However, start of

international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of the airlines on the basis of traffic demand, economic viability of the route and other associated factors.
