

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 490**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022)

**GROWTH IN AIR PASSENGERS TRAFFIC**

490. SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS

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

- (a) whether according to International Air Transport Association (IATA), India is expected to overtake China and United States as the world's third-largest air passenger market in the next ten years, by 2030;
- (b) whether Government is capable of achieving that target;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of air passengers India caters to, country-wise in last five years, year-wise details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government is planning to expand its international airline service to any new nations, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (c) India is currently the third largest domestic aviation market. In order to boost the growth of the aviation sector, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and private airport companies have taken up the development of new and existing airports with a projected capital expenditure of over Rs 90,000 crore over the next five years. The number of airlines are increasing and the existing airlines are augmenting their fleet. The number of passengers traveling by air has also shown an increasing trend. According to IATA's long term passenger forecast, India will emerge as the 3rd largest global air passenger market (which includes domestic and international air traffic). This will place India's aviation behind US and China in terms of air passengers, in the foreseeable future.

(d) The details of number of air passengers who have traveled to/from India, country-wise in last five years, are available quarter-wise on the website of the

Directorate General of Civil Aviation, under Data and Reports - International Air Transport - Quarterly Statistics.

(e) For direct air connectivity between India and another country, Air Services Agreement is a prerequisite. India currently has Air Service Agreements with 116 countries. It provides direct connectivity to more than 40 countries and indirect connectivity to more than 100 countries. However, expansion of international airline service from any point in India to any new location is purely a commercial decision of the airlines on the basis of economic viability of the route and other associated factors.

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