

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1135
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13th February 2023)

KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS A POINT OF CALL

1135. DR. JOHN BRITTAS

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

(a) will the government heed to the unabating demand for making Kannur International Airport as a point of call for international flights considering the overwhelming number of expatriates from Northern Kerala, by relaxing/expanding the extant open sky policy;

(b) whether the government took note of the fact that the survival of the Kannur International Airport can be ensured only by encouraging more foreign international flights from Kannur; and

(c) If so, will the Government take a considered decision by reviewing its earlier stand in the matter?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (c) The Air Service Agreements are bilateral in nature and reciprocity is generally maintained in such agreements. In the past, due to grant of multiple points of call to foreign countries, an imbalance has been created wherein foreign carriers have access to multiple points in India while Indian carriers have access to only one or two points. Hence, 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 Kannur International Airport to foreign destinations 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 scheduled airlines on the basis of economic viability of the route and other associated factors. At present, as per Winter 2022 Schedule, Indian carriers are operating 61 international services per week from

Kannur International Airport.

There are three airports in Kerala viz. Kochi, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram which are already available as points of call to foreign carriers. The international connectivity from these airports, as per Winter 2022 Schedule, is as under:

- (i) Kochi -259 services/week
- (ii) Kozhikode -131 services/week
- (iii) Thiruvananthapuram-115 services/week
