

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1635**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

**AIRPORTS WITH POINT OF CALL STATUS**

1635. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM

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

- (a) the number of airports in the country that have received point of call status in last five years and the details of each airport;
- (b) whether Government has received request from Kannur International Airport in Kerala for giving Point of Call Status for it and the actions taken by Government on this request;
- (c) the rationale for Government for not giving Point of Call Status to Kannur International Airport, and
- (d) the necessary conditions that are to be fulfilled by airports for obtaining this status and whether all the airports given with this status have fulfilled such conditions?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) The international operations of airlines are governed by the bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective country. Any foreign airline can operate to/from a point in India if it is designated as a point of call in the ASA. Specific airports are not granted point of call status in the ASAs.

(b) to (d) Yes, sir. This Ministry has received requests from the Kannur International Airport for granting it as a point of call for the designated carriers of foreign countries. However, currently, due to a significant imbalance in the number of points of call in favour of foreign carriers, the Government of India does not grant any non-metro airport as a new point of call to any foreign carrier.

In accordance with ASA, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport including Kannur to foreign destinations as per

mutually agreed capacity entitlements. As of Winter schedule 2023-24, Indian carriers are operating a total of 55 international flights per week from Kannur to foreign destinations viz. Dubai, Sharjah, Doha, Kuwait, Bahrain, Muscat, Riyadh, Jeddah and Abu Dhabi.

The grant of point of call for the designated carriers of foreign countries is considered based on the principles of reciprocity, the balance of benefit, future plans of Indian carriers and overall interest of the aviation sector.

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