

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 5
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th December 2023)

POINT OF CALL STATUS FOR KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

5. SHRI JOSE K. MANI

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

- (a) the criteria for declaring an airport as Point of Call;
- (b) whether Government has received any request from Kannur International Airport to declare this airport as Point of Call to enable foreign carriers to operate to and from Kannur;
- (c) if so, details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has any plans to designate Kannur International Airport as a Point of Call and for increased frequency of operations by Indian carriers; and
- (e) if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a): Grant of point of call to the designated carriers of foreign countries is done through bilateral agreements on air services signed between India and foreign countries from time to time. The grant of point of call to the designated carriers of foreign countries depends on factors which include benefits to the Indian aviation sector, presence of Indian diaspora in that country, future plans of Indian carriers, elements of reciprocity, balance of benefits and other relevant factors between two countries.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The Government has received requests including from Kannur International Airport, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and State Government of Kerala for granting 'point of call' status to Kannur International Airport.

(d) & (e): At present, the Government of India follows a policy of promoting more international operations by Indian carriers from non-metro points either directly or through their own domestic operations. Accordingly, the policy is to not grant any non-metro airport as a new point of call in the Air Services Agreements to any foreign carriers. Indian Airlines are free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate within the ambit of bilateral agreements. The

airlines provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. The start of international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of the airlines on the basis of economic viability of the route, availability of aircraft etc. Presently, Indian Carriers are providing connectivity to Jeddah, Riyadh, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Muscat, Bahrain, Dubai and Doha from Kannur International Airport.
