

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 18
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22nd July 2024)**

POINT OF CALL STATUS FOR AMRITSAR AND CHANDIGARH AIRPORTS

18. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to grant point of call to more International Airports in the country;
- (b) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that every year lakhs of Punjab domiciles travel to and from Canada from various airports in the country;
- (d) whether Government is planning to grant point of call to Amritsar and Chandigarh International Airports under Air Service Agreement (ASA) with Canada; and
- (e) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (e): Grant of point of call to the designated carriers of foreign countries is a continuous process and 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.

At present, the Government of India promotes more international operations by Indian carriers from non-metro points either directly or through their own domestic operations. Accordingly, any non-metro airport is not granted 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 including Amritsar and Chandigarh, is purely a commercial decision of the airlines based on the slot availability, market requirement, economic viability of operations etc.
