

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1601
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th August 2025)**

**DIRECT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM CHANDIGARH AND
AMRITSAR AIRPORTS**

1601. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU

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

- (a) whether Government is working on proposals or requests to initiate/increase the number of direct international flights from Chandigarh and Amritsar airports to the United Kingdom, Canada, and Singapore;
- (b) if so, the current status of such proposals and timeline fixed for implementation;
- (c) the details of existing international routes operational from these airports; and
- (d) whether any bilateral air service negotiations are underway to enhance international connectivity from the State of Punjab to major global destinations

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): International flight operations are governed by Bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective countries. In accordance with respective ASAs, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport, including Chandigarh and Amritsar, to any foreign destinations as per mutually agreed capacity limits. The start of direct international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of scheduled airlines on the basis of passenger demand, availability of slots, economic viability of the route, and other associated factors. The Government provides an enabling environment for the growth of the civil aviation sector, but does not interfere in the operational plans of the airlines.

Enhancing air capacity entitlements is a continuous process and is done through bilateral agreements on air services signed between India and foreign countries

from time to time, depending upon 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.

Presently, Amritsar Airport has international services to and from Birmingham, Bangkok, Doha, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, London (Gatwick), Milan, Sharjah, and Singapore while Chandigarh has international services to and from Dubai and Abu Dhabi.
