

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1615
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026
GRANT OF POINT OF CALL (POC) STATUS TO KANNUR
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1615. SHRI HARIS BEERAN

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

(a) whether the Central Government has received representation from Government of Kerala, seeking the grant of Point of Call status to Kannur international airport, and if so the dates of such representations;

(b) the specific criteria applied by Government while deciding whether to designate a non-metro airport as a Point of Call for foreign carriers under bilateral air services agreements;

(c) whether Government periodically reviews the Point of Call status of non-metro airports in light of passenger traffic growth and if so, the periodicity of such review; and

(d) the steps, if any, being taken by Government to enhance international connectivity from Kannur international airport through Indian carriers?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Yes, the Government has received representations, including those dated 17.05.2023, 08.07.2024 and 28.09.2024, from the Government of Kerala requesting grant of 'Point of Call' (PoC) status to Kannur International Airport

(b) and (c): Grant of Point of Call (PoC) to designated foreign carriers is a continuous process governed by bilateral Air Services Agreements. The grant of PoC 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.

Presently, the Government of India promotes international operations from non-metro points, including Kannur, by Indian carriers either directly or through their own domestic operations. Accordingly, non-metro points, are not being granted as new Point of Call in the Air Services Agreements (ASAs) to any foreign carrier.

(d):The international operations of airlines are governed by the bilateral ASA between India and the respective country. In accordance with the ASA, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any point in India including Kannur to foreign destinations as per mutually agreed capacity limits.

The Government has provided an enabling environment for the growth of the civil aviation sector but it does not interfere in the operational plans of the airlines. 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.
