

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2405
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th August 2026

INTERNATIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY FROM PUNJAB

2405. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

(a) a large number of Punjabis, particularly NRIs, students, business travelers and families, are compelled to travel via Delhi airports due to the limited availability of direct international flights from Punjab, steps Government is taking to increase direct international connectivity from airports in the State of Punjab;

(b) policy measures or incentives that are being provided to domestic and international airlines to commence direct international operations from airports such as Amritsar, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bathinda or other airports in Punjab; and

(c) whether Government has conducted any assessment of passenger's demand for international flights from Punjab, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): International flight operations are governed by bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective country. In accordance with ASA, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport including Amritsar and Chandigarh to foreign destinations as per mutually agreed capacity limits, while any designated foreign airline can operate to/from a point in India if it is designated as a point of call in the ASA. At present, direct international connectivity to Sharjah, Birmingham, London, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, Doha and Singapore is available from Amritsar Airport. Further, Abu Dhabi and Dubai are directly connected to Chandigarh.

Following the the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, the Indian aviation sector has been deregulated. The start of 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 growth of civil aviation sector but does not interfere in the operational plans of the airlines.
