

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 73
(To be answered on the 20th July 2023)**

INCREASE IN FLOW OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

**73. SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is true that flow of international passengers has almost doubled during the first three months of 2023 as compared to the same period in 2022;**
- (b) if so, whether the Government has tried to ascertain the reasons for spike in international air travel and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is true that the market share of scheduled domestic airlines has also shown an increase and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to attract domestic and international passengers to give boost to aviation industry in the country;**
- (e) the details of percentage rise in international passengers during the above said period; and**
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce air fares?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a) to (e) Passengers carried by scheduled Indian and Foreign carriers for scheduled international operations in the first quarter of 2023 show an increase of about 88% over the passenger figures of first quarter of 2022 as per provisional figures available.

The number of international passengers had been affected adversely due to COVID-19. However, the situation has improved as witnessed by rebound in air travelers after the resumption of scheduled international commercial passenger operations w.e.f 27.03.2022.

The market share of scheduled domestic airlines for international passengers has not shown an increase as per provisional figures available.

To attract domestic and international passengers and to give boost to aviation industry in the country, the government has inter-alia, taken the following steps:

(i) For enhancing regional connectivity in the domestic sector, the Ministry operates the UDAN scheme.

(ii) In the international sector, 18 tourist destinations of India have been made available for SAARC (except Afghanistan and Pakistan) and ASEAN countries to/from which designated carriers of India as well as designated carriers of SAARC and ASEAN countries can mount unlimited operations. Additionally, in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, the government has, on reciprocal basis, offered open sky arrangements to SAARC countries and countries located beyond 5000 kms from Delhi. As on date, India has open sky arrangements with 23 countries which has facilitated unlimited operations between India and these countries.

(f) The airfare is market driven and is neither regulated nor established by the Government. Air fares are determined by the airlines based on interplay of market forces. The fares on any route is dependent inter-alia on seasonality, holidays and festivals, cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel, competition and other similar factors.
