

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1881
(To be answered on the 22nd September 2020)**

INTERIM POINT OF CALL

1881. ADV. A.M. ARIFF

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation from the Government of Kerala for conferring the 'interim point of call' status to the Kannur International Airport Limited (KIAL);

(b) if so, the status thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to start more flight services from KIAL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Union Government will consider the same?

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Union Government has received a letter dated 19.08.2020 from the Government of Kerala to declare Kannur as an 'interim point of call' for foreign carriers for a period of six months.

(b): Indian carriers are free to mount international flights to/from any point in India including Kannur. During the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government had also allowed all foreign carriers to bring back Indians from foreign countries to any international airport in India (including Kannur) irrespective of the points of call available to the designated carriers of the country of origin. However, as the Government has established a number of Air Bubble agreements with various countries, the designated carriers are being restricted to the points of call available in the bilateral agreements. However, carriers of countries with whom Air Bubble agreements are not yet established, are still allowed to operate charter flights

to any international airport in India (including Kannur).

(c) & (d): Airlines are free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate within the ambit of bilateral agreements. It is, therefore, upon the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.
