

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 772
(To be answered on the 17th September 2020)**

AIR BUBBLE

772. SHRIMATI MALA ROY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the countries with which India has entered into agreement for 'air bubble';**
- (b) the details of air bubble; and**
- (c) the time by which the Government plans to open up aviation sector completely?**

ANSWER

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

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) Till 13.09.2020, India has entered into Air Bubble agreements with 10 countries viz. USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Maldives, UAE, Qatar, Afghanistan and Bahrain.

(b) The essential details of Air Bubbles agreements are as follows:

- 1. These are temporary agreements between two countries aimed at restarting commercial passenger services when regular international flights are suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- 2. They are reciprocal in nature i.e. airlines from both countries enjoy similar benefits.**
- 3. Tickets for the flights are sold through the airlines' website, travel agents and Global Distribution Systems.**

(c) In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there are restrictions on international flight operations to/from India. The Indian aviation and health infrastructure is currently trying its best to efficiently handle the large scale Vande Bharat Mission and Air Bubble operations. Limited quarantine and other related health facilities to be provided by the State Governments is a factor that has to be taken into account before regular commercial scheduled

international operations are allowed.
