

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 830  
(To be answered on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020)**

**COMMERCIAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS**

**830. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानन मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) the percentage of Indian air space open for commercial flight operations in the country;
- (b) whether military air space is proposed to be opened for commercial flights as proposed by the Finance Minister in her 4th Tranche of announcement;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the performance of aviation sector during COVID, with a particular reference to Air India, and the extent to which Vande Bharat Mission helped it to earn some revenue; and
- (e) the time by which all the domestic and international operations are going to be started?

**ANSWER**

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

**नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)**

**(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)**

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- (a): About 60 % of Indian air space is opened for commercial flight operations in the country.
  - (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Indian Air Force (IAF) has released airspace 33,000 feet and above North of Pune Local Flying Area (LFA) and airspace above 25,000 feet South of Pune LFA. When not used by IAF, this airspace is used by commercial flights.
  - (d): The revenue of Indian carriers has reduced from INR 25,517 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 3,651 crore during April-June 2020. In respect of Air India, the total revenue has reduced from INR 7,066 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 1,531 crore during April-June, 2020. The revenue earned by Air India and Air India Express from "Vande Bharat Mission" (VBM) flights upto 31 August 2020 are Rs. 2,021 crore and Rs. 415 crore respectively.
  - (e): With Unlocking process, the Government has allowed operation of Domestic flights in the country in a phased manner and so far 60% approved domestic capacity has been allowed to operate. In view of the ongoing

**COVID-19 pandemic, there are restrictions on international flight operations to/from India. However, 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. 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.**

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