

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1634
(To be answered on the 1st August 2024)**

FLIGHT SERVICES TO GULF COUNTRIES

1634. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the current demand-supply gap in flight services between Kerala airports and GCC countries and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the measures taken to increase the number of direct flights from major airports of Kerala to various destinations in GCC countries, utilizing the full quota of bilateral air service agreements to increase the frequency of flights;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take initiatives or conduct negotiations with airlines and GCC countries to enhance flight connectivity and to make air travel more affordable and accessible for the expatriate community from Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): International flight operations are governed by bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective countries. In accordance with ASA, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport to foreign destinations including Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries 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. The start of direct 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.

Enhancing air capacity entitlements is a continuous process and is done through bilateral agreements on air services signed between India and foreign countries from time to time, depending upon factors which include benefits to the Indian aviation sector, presence of Indian diaspora in that country, future plans of Indian carriers, elements of reciprocity, balance of benefits and other relevant factors between two countries.
