

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2781
(To be answered on the 8th August 2024)**

POINT OF CALL SWAPPING

2781. SHRI K SUDHAKARAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to swap the point of call status of any foreign carrier from Gulf countries currently operating on non-viable routes in the country with Kannur International Airport and would allow these carriers to operate to Gulf countries from Kannur;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the details of the airports, including the foreign airlines operating with a point of call status but having lower viability since 2019, year-wise;**
- (d) whether the Government has any criteria for swapping the point of call status between airports in the country; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (e): There is no proposal under consideration to swap the point of call status between the airports in the country for any foreign carrier.

At present, the Government of India promotes more international operations by Indian carriers from non-metro points either directly or through their own domestic operations. Accordingly, non-metro airports are not granted as new points of call in the Air Services Agreements (ASAs) to any foreign carrier.

The Government does not interfere in the operational plans of the airlines who are free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate within the ambit of bilateral agreements. The airlines provide air

services to specific places depending upon passenger demand, availability of slots, the economic viability of the route, and other associated factors.

The review of ASAs including replacement of point of call depends upon many 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.
