

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2313  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11th MARCH, 2016  
21 PHALGUNA, 1937 (SAKA)

**“Customs clearance at Airports”**

2313 **SHRI OM BIRLA**

Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airports in India that facilitate custom clearances through 24X7 Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Systems;
- (b) whether it is true that despite having a 24X7 clearances system, bulk of trade clearances happen in the morning while the facilities at night is underutilized and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure faster clearances through EDI during day time to facilitate ease of business through faster import process?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

*Vijay*  
19/3/2016

- (a): There are 17 Air Cargo Complexes that facilitate customs clearances through 24X7 Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).
- (b): Yes Sir. Post introduction of 24X7 clearance facilities, the number of clearances during the day are still more as compared to clearances during the night. The factors responsible for this are additional costs to be borne by trade on account of service charges by clearing agents, availability of staff of other regulatory agencies, banks etc. which are not providing 24x7 services.
- (c):
  - (i) The Customs applications have been upgraded to quicken the processing of the electronically filed documents and also to increase the speed of message exchange with the custodians at the Air cargo Complexes at the Airports.
  - (ii) The information provided by Customs through the messages to the custodians at Delhi and Mumbai i.e. DIAL and MIAL respectively, are being used by them, to provide various services through mobile applications to speed up the clearances.
  - (iii) Central Board of Excise and Customs has already introduced a system of Risk Management System whereby the consignments are selectively interdicted for assessment and examination on the basis of risk involved. Majority of the consignments are facilitated. This decreases dwell time.