

## **Regarding need for direct flight connectivity between Kolkata and European countries- Laid**

**SHRI YUSUF PATHAN (BAHARAMPUR):** West Bengal is one of the most favoured tourist destinations in the country with the state witnessing the 2nd highest foreign tourist footfall in India in 2025. Despite this huge foreign interest in the state, there are no direct flights connecting Kolkata to Europe. This deprives Bengal of both revenue and economic opportunities. Similarly, with over 2.5 lakh passengers travelling from Kolkata to Europe each year, the lack of direct flights imposes heavy costs in terms of time, money and convenience on students, businesspeople and tourists. Multiple MPs have, in the past, petitioned the Ministry of Civil Aviation for improving the connectivity between Kolkata and Europe. In December 2024, the West Bengal State Assembly passed a unanimous resolution seeking the Union Government's intervention to ensure direct flights between Kolkata and Europe. West Bengal's strategic location will also ensure that direct flight connectivity from Kolkata to Europe will cater not just to the whole Eastern and Northeastern India but also to neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. Hence, I urge the government to take speedy action to ensure that direct flight connectivity between Kolkata and Europe is established at the earliest.