

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:985
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
EXTENSION OF OPEN SKY POLICY
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to extend the limited `Open Sky Policy` for two more years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the countries and airlines utilising the existing policy;
- (d) whether the Government have debarred some countries and airlines from the limited open sky policy; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) and (b): For the past few years, Government has declared a limited open sky policy for the peak season, which enabled the foreign airlines to mount additional capacity to take care of seasonal rush. The decision in this regard for the coming year will be taken after considering new flights deployed by the national and foreign carriers during winter schedule on different routes and expected demand during winter tourist season on these routes.

(c): During the peak winter 2002-03 season, more than 50,000 additional seats were deployed by various foreign airlines under the open sky policy. Lufthansa (Germany), Virgin Atlantic (UK), Emirates (Dubai) and Korean Air (South Korea) operated additional services during this period. Also, airlines such as Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Iran Air, Emirates, Austrian Airlines, Malaysian Airlines and Sri Lankan Airlines operated with bigger aircraft.

(d) and (e): Airlines from all countries were permitted to mount additional services under open sky policy for the period December, 2002 to 15th February, 2003 subject to commercial agreement with Air India. However this limited open sky policy was subsequently extended upto 30th June, 2003 for the airlines of Western Europe/ USA only because of tourism potential and tourist demand from their ports.