

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:225

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005

FLIGHTS OF FOREIGN AIRLINES TO SMALL CITIES

Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant permission to certain foreign airlines to introduce flights to the small cities in the country under bilateral air service agreements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of such proposals on air traffic and airlines in the public sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b) & (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.225 reply on 8.12.2005 regard `Flights of foreign airlines to small cities`

(a), (b), (c) & (d): Government do not entertain requests directly from the foreign airlines for introduction of flights. Traffic rights for operation of international air services are specified in our bilateral air services agreements concluded with various countries and are reviewed from time to time during bilateral air services consultations at the Government level, depending on traffic demand, balance of benefit to our carriers, overall interest of national economy, airport capacity, diplomatic/political considerations etc. Actual operations are however a matter of commercial judgement of the airlines designated for utilizing these rights. There is no request at present from foreign Government for traffic entitlements to any small city in India.