

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1454
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
FAIR COMPETITION IN CIVIL AVIATION SECTOR
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in pursuant to Open Sky Policy, a number of private airlines have entered into the civil aviation sector;
- (b) if so, the number of private airlines operating in India at present ;
- (c) whether the private airlines are still to be provided level playing field keeping in view undue protection since long, being provided to public sector airlines by making mandatory for public servants to travel by public sector airlines only in normal circumstances inspite of attractive discounts offered by private airlines;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide level playing field so as to provide fair competition in the best interest of civil aviation sector;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) and (b):- At present 8 Private Airlines are providing Scheduled Air Transport Services in the country.

(c),(d),(e) and (f):- Public sector airlines shoulder the burden of meeting the Government's socio-economic commitments and operate on a number of uneconomic routes in the interest of maintaining connectivity to remote and inaccessible areas. Moreover, the discounted and promotional fares offered by public sector carriers can also be availed of by public servants on first-come-first-served basis. As such, no undue protection is being given to public sector carriers. Public servants can travel by private airlines on sectors that are not connected by public sector carriers.