

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3228
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
UAE FLIGHTS FROM CHENNAI
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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- (a) Whether Air Arabia has started its operations from Chennai to Sharjah in United States of Emirates ;
- (b) Whether the Middle Eastern low-cost airline to increase its fleet and also attract passengers by helping them in procuring visa by setting up a visa facilitation centre in Chennai; and
- (c) If so, the manner in which the National carrier proposes to compete with it ?

Answer

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

- (a) : Yes, Sir.
- (b) : As per available information, Air Arabia has recently held out assistance to its travel agents in obtaining visa for the visit of their passengers to UAE.
- (c) : Both the national carriers have taken various steps to increase their revenues and profitability viz.
 - (i) Dry leasing of aircraft,
 - (ii) Acquisition of aircraft
 - (iii) Refurbishment of the existing aircraft
 - (iv) Launching of special promotional schemes,
 - (v) Closing of uneconomical offices and downsizing,
 - (vi) Redeployment of staff from non-operational to operational areas and
 - (vii) Outsourcing of non-core activities to subsidiary companies.