

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:397  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004  
BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH US  
Rawale Shri Mohan;Singh Shri Dushyant

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government of US has sent detailed proposals for bilateral civil aviation agreement;
- (b) if so, whether the existing bilateral agreement between Indian and US is out-dated and needs to be replaced immediately to improve air services between the two countries;
- (c) if so, whether India has considered the offer made by US to open its skies to any Indian airlines;
- (d) if so, the details of the same and by when the agreement between India and US is likely to be signed in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has also finalised the plans to enter into bilateral agreement with other countries including Brazil, Europe and Middle East;
- (f) if so, the details of the agreement made so far; and
- (g) to what extent it has been helpful as far as India is concerned?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b), (c) & (d):- The existing Air Services agreement between India and USA is quite liberal, under which both countries can designate any number of airlines, which in turn can operate any number of services to the destinations available to them. However, there are restrictions under the present arrangements on points of call to which designated airlines can operate and on exercise of traffic rights from intermediate points. USA has recently proposed a total open sky agreement on a reciprocal basis which, inter alia, seeks to do away with these restrictions. The US proposal has been examined and certain modifications have been proposed. No firm time frame for signing of the new agreement can be indicated at this stage.

(e) & (f):- India has entered into an Air Services Agreement with Brazil on 5.5.2004. Air services Agreements also exist with 25 European and 16 Middle-East countries.

(g):- Bilateral Air Services Agreements are a pre-requisite for commencement of scheduled air services. These agreements enable designated airlines of both countries to operate scheduled air services between their respective territories - enabling passengers and freight traffic flows between the two countries, with consequent benefit to trade, commerce, Tourism and national economy as a whole.