

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1368
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
BILATERAL AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a): Whether the agreements for new air services have been signed by the Government with a number of countries during the last three years;
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): the details of increase in air services as a result of signing these agreements;
- (d): whether the Government proposes to sign more such agreements with other countries;and
- (e): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e):Presently, India has Air Services Agreement (ASA) with 101 countries. Out of these, four new ASA with Finland, Tunisia, Qatar and Iceland were signed and ASAs with USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Qatar were revised during the last three years.

Traffic rights for international operations are specified in these bilateral ASAs with foreign countries, which are reviewed from time to time as part of on-going process depending upon traffic demand, balance of benefit to our carriers, overall interest of national economy and diplomatic/political consideration. Actual operations including route selection are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

During the last three years, as part of on-going process, capacity entitlements with 41 countries have been enhanced substantially. This has helped in growth in the number of services per week operated by both the foreign and Indian carriers from 1077 in 2004 to 1540 in 2006.