

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1620
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13th December 2021
AIR-BUBBLE AGREEMENTS AND RESTORING OF REGULAR
FLIGHT OPERATIONS

1620. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that currently India has air-bubble agreements only with 31 countries and has denied requests from several other countries seeking to form the agreement;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not considering the requests by the other countries; and

(c) what is India's plan on restoring regular flight travel between countries which now accept vaccinated Indians with WHO approved vaccines?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) and (b) As on 06.12.2021, India has formalized air bubble arrangements with 32 countries.

The government periodically reviews the existing air bubble arrangements as well as formalizes new air travel bubble arrangements after taking into consideration the Covid-19 situation, the passenger demand and assessment of risk factor with the concerned country after taking concurrence of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Air bubble arrangements are

not formalized in cases where concurrence of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are not available.

(c) Recognizing the increased vaccination coverage across the globe and the changing nature of the pandemic and considering the health protocols which have been put in place for international arrivals, the Government decided to resume scheduled commercial international passenger services to/from India with effect from 15.12.2021.

However, in view of the evolving global scenario with the emergence of new variants of concern, the situation is being closely monitored and reviewed in consultation with other Ministries, with regard to taking any further decision on this issue.
