

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 514
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12th December 2022)**

POINT OF CALL STATUS

514. SHRI A. A. RAHIM

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

(a) whether Government has a policy of not granting point of call status to various international airports in the country, if so, the details thereof and the process by which such decision has been reached and rationale for the same;

(b) whether Government has studied impact on fares and number of flights available to public due to not granting point of call status to various international airports, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has studied impact on the revenue and operations of the International airports denied point of call status, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) The government follows a policy of promoting more international operations by Indian carriers from non-metro points either directly or through their own domestic and international operations. Considering the significant imbalance in the number of points of call in favour of foreign carriers, the Government of India is not granting any non-metro airport as a new point of call to any foreign carrier for the purpose of operating passenger services.

The Indian designated carriers are free to mount scheduled operations to/from any airport to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral air services agreements concluded by India with foreign countries.

(b) and (c) The air services agreements are bilateral in nature and reciprocity is maintained in such agreements. In the past, due to grant of multiple point of call to foreign countries, an imbalance has been created wherein foreign carriers have access to multiple points in India while Indian carriers have access to only one or

two points.

As such, the government has noted the impact of granting foreign carriers unfettered access to Indian airports on the Indian aviation ecosystem and has taken a conscious decision in the the interest of Indian aviation ecosystem of not granting any non-metro airport as a new point of call to any foreign carrier for the purpose of operating passenger services

Air fares are not established by the Government as they are determined by the airlines based on interplay of market forces. The fares on any route is dependent on seasonality, holidays and festivals, competition and other similar factors.
