

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 566
(To be answered on the 6th February 2025)**

FLIGHTS FROM KOLKATA AIRPORT TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

566. MR PATHAN YUSUF

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct flight from Kolkata to Saudi Arabia and other middle east countries, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is aware that a large number of people travel from Kolkata to Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government would start the direct flight for Saudi Arabia and other middle east countries from Kolkata?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) Presently, Air Arabia Abu Dhabi, Dubai Aviation Corporation (Flydubai), Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways are operating 32 flights per week from Kolkata to Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Doha.

(b) Yes.

(c) The International flight operations are governed by bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective countries. In accordance with ASA, any designated foreign airline can operate to/from a point in India if it is designated as a point of call in the ASA. Kolkata is available as a point of call for the designated carriers of most of the middle east countries including UAE (Dubai), UAE (Abu Dhabi), Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait. Moreover, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport including Kolkata to any foreign destinations including Saudi Arabia and other middle east countries as per mutually agreed capacity limits. However, the start of direct international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of scheduled airlines on the

basis of passenger demand, availability of slots, economic viability of the route and other associated factors. The Government provides an enabling environment for growth of civil aviation sector but does not interfere in the operational plans of the airlines.
