

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1781
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th August 2021)
REMOVAL OF DSA FROM AIRPORTS

1781. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry is considering removing Designated Smoking Areas (DSA) from airports across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether Ministry has received any such proposal to remove DSA from airports across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what steps have been taken by the Ministry to ensure that DSA are not high-risk zones for spread of COVID-19?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The policy for award of license to operate and maintain "Smoking Lounge" is made by the airport operators as a measure of passenger facilitation.

(c) & (d): A representation was received from an organisation named as "Voluntary Health Association of India" requesting therein to close "Smoking Rooms" at all Airports to fight the coronavirus and to control its spread etc.

(e): The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other airport operators have taken all the necessary measures to ensure that Designated Smoking Areas (DSA) are not high-risk zones for spread of COVID-19 by ensuring regular sanitization, ensuring proper ventilation, provision of sanitizers and display of COVID-19 safety guidelines.
