

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:275
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
REPLACEMENT OF AIRCRAFT
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of A-300 and boeing aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines are almost twenty years old requiring replacement;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been made about the air-worthiness and health of fleet of Indian Airlines planes;
- (c) if so, the details of findings thereof;
- (d) whether the Government propose to start any programme to modernise the Indian Airlines fleet;
- (e) if so, the time by which the said programme is likely to be launched and the estimated cost thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e) and (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d),(e) AND (f) OF LOKSABHASTARREDQUESTION NO.275 FOR REPLY OF 07.12.2000 REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF AIRCRAFT.

(a),(b) and (c): The age profile of Airbus A-300 and Boeing 737 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines as on 1.11.2000, is as follows:

Type No. of Aircraft Average age

Airbus A-300	09	21.3 years
Boeing 737	11	19.2 years

Indian Airlines also has 02 Airbus A-300B2 aircraft on lease whose average age is 16 years.

The age of the aircraft is one of the many criteria for its replacement. The aircraft remain in operation so long as they are maintained in airworthy condition as per the maintenance procedures and norms prescribed by the aircraft manufacturers and approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

There is an economic design life of each aircraft type after which the maintenance becomes exorbitant.

The economic design life of Boeing 737 aircraft type has been estimated by the Boeing company at 75,000 cycles (one landing and one take-off makes one cycle). Boeing aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines has completed on an average 50,000 cycles. Thus they are well within the norm of economic design life.

The economic design life of Airbus A-300 aircraft is 48,000 cycles. On an average the fleet of Indian Airlines has completed around 30,000 cycles, i.e. the fleet is well within the economic design life

(d),(e) and (f): Indian Airlines has short and long term plans to induct new aircraft in fleet. The short term requirements are being met through dry lease of the aircraft (5 Boeing 737 and 2 Airbus 320).

For its long-term aircraft requirements Indian Airlines is presently carrying out a Techno-Economic Study for identifying the type and the number of aircraft best suited for its operational network. A Techno-Economic evaluation for the acquisition of new aircraft is underway. The requirement of aircraft has been estimated at 39 over a period of 5 years. The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs.9,000 crores.