

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5086
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
SKY MARSHALS ON FLIGHTS
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pilots of Indian Airlines and Air India have objected for the deployment of sky marshals on Board for security reasons;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government there to?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b) & (c): The Indian Commercial Pilots` Association had objected to deployment of Sky Marshals on the following grounds:

- i) Any scuffle between the Sky Marshals and hijackers could injure passengers.
- ii) In case of exchange of fire in mid-air, the structure of the aircraft may be damaged causing de-compression.
- iii) There has already been an incident of crash of an aircraft of foreign airline due to mid-air scuffle.

However, the matter has been settled amicably and Sky Marshals are being deployed as per plan.