

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3379
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
FOREIGN OPERATION
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI;RAMA PILOT

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India on their International flights to U.S.A., U.K, Europe and Gulf countries operate on a longer route via Ahmedabad and West Mumbai instead of Kutch territorial route causing loss due to extra expenditure on fuel and also consume more time;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the amount lost annually on extra fuel; and
- (c) steps taken by the Government to operate these flights over Bhuj territorial route?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Presently there are restrictions from Defence Authorities for the shorter route. Therefore, the air-route is not direct and aircraft have to cover additional distance. Due to this increased distance on the present route, about Rs.14.90 crores per annum is spent additionally.

(c): The matter has been taken up with Defence authorities to allow operation on the shorter route over Bhuj.