

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1470

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004

PERMISSION TO IA/A/PRIVATE AIRLINES FOR ROUTES

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to permit Indian Airlines/Air India to operate on more national/international routes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such permission is also likely to be granted to private operators;
- (d) if so, whether there will be any impact on national carrier due to the decision;
- (e) if so, the steps taken to correct the situation;
- (f) whether the Government propose to permit the Government employees to avail the benefits for claiming Leave Travel Concession being offered by private operators; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor and the present norms laid down in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): Routes and requisite traffic rights for operation of international air services are specified in India's Air Services Agreements with different countries. Airlines designated by Government can operate on the agreed routes subject to the availability of traffic rights as per their commercial judgement. As regards, domestic routes, airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

(c),(d)and(e): Government has presently permitted Private Domestic Scheduled Operators (PDSOs) to operate to SAARC countries against unutilized entitlements of the Indian side subject to the provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreements. Jet Airways and Air Sahara have been designated for operations to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal as requested by them. No adverse impact on Air India and Indian Airlines is envisaged as the operations of private airlines are permitted on the unutilized traffic rights.

(f) and (g): As per the provisions laid down under Central Civil Services Leave Travel Concession (LTC) Rules, Government servants drawing pay of Rs. 18,400/- and above are entitled to travel by Air Economy (Y) Class by National Carriers or AC First Class by train, at their option. No proposal to permit LTC on private airlines is under consideration of the Government.