

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:432
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2010
FLIGHTS TO MIDDLE EAST DESTINATIONS
Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a): whether air passengers are facing inconvenience due to frequent delay/cancellation of flights to middle east destinations;
- (b): if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c): the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.432 for reply on 26-08-2010 regarding 'Flights to Middle East Destinations'.

(a) to (c): Sometimes passengers face inconvenience due to delays which are beyond the control of the airlines arising out of factors such as Air Traffic Control (ATC), weather, technical reasons, security checks etc. The Indian carriers flying to Middle East destinations generally operate on time and as per schedule. Moreover, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued fresh directions to be followed by Airlines, ATCs and Airport operators, now being enforced to reduce flight delays.

Air India and its subsidiaries and also Jet Airways have restructured/withdrawn some of their flights to/from Middle East, with a view to bring about synergies in the operations of flights operated between them and their subsidiary airlines. The flights on Calicut-Ras al Khaimah/Fujairah, Hyderabad-Sharjah, Bangalore-Sharjah, Goa-Sharjah, Chennai-Sharjah, Delhi- Sharjah, Bahrain-Cochin, Bahrain-Calicut, Doha-Calicut, Doha-Cochin, Calicut – Kuwait, Calicut- Muscat, Cochin-Muscat routes have been rationalized/withdrawn because of low profitability and replaced some with its routes to Dubai, while its Chennai-Trichy-Sharjah flight has been replaced by an Air India Express daily service on the Chennai-Trichy-Dubai route, since the distance between the Dubai and Sharjah airport is only about 20 kms.

Likewise, Jet Airways has also cancelled its flights between Delhi-Kuwait, Cochin-Kuwait, Cochin-Bahrain, Calicut-Muscat and Calicut-Doha by similar route rationalization.