

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5023
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2010
AIR INDIA FLIGHTS
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India is not operating any flights to Sri Lanka and Paro in Bhutan from Delhi in spite of heavy traffic on these routes;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to permit private airlines to operate on Delhi-Paro-Delhi and Delhi-Sri Lanka-Delhi routes; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Though Air India does not operate direct flights from Delhi to Sri Lanka and Paro, it provides a same day connectivity between Delhi and Sri Lanka via Chennai daily. On account of inadequate market potential, Air India does not find it commercially viable to operate direct flights on these sectors.

(c) and (d): No private airline(s) has yet been granted permission to operate on Delhi-Paro- Delhi and Delhi-Sri Lanka- Delhi routes.