

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:45
ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010
CANCELLATION OF AIR INDIA FLIGHTS
Thomas Shri P. T.;Venugopal Shri K. C.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the difficulties being faced by the passengers of Gulf countries particularly from Kerala due to the frequent cancellation of flights of Air India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a),(b) and (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) and (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 45 FOR ANSWER ON 11.11.2010 TABLED BY SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL AND SHRI P.T. THOMAS, MPs REGARDING CANCELLATION OF AIR INDIA FLIGHTS.

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Few representations drawing attention of the Government towards frequent cancellations/delays of flights of Air India Express to Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut, have been received.

(c): Air India has been advised to look into the matter of frequent cancellations/delays of flights operating between Kerala and Gulf. In order to avoid delays/disruption of flight due to bad weather especially at Calicut, flights have been rescheduled to operate in the 'Safe window' of clear weather. A standby aircraft has also been positioned in Kochi to maintain schedule integrity and to cater to any requirement of an aircraft on emergency. Recruitment of Cabin Crew was conducted in August, 2010 to meet the shortfall. In order to address technical/engineering aspects of the aircrafts on emergency basis, Air India Express has shifted its Engineering Base at Trivandrum. Air India Management has been advised to be extra vigilant on operations between Gulf and Kerala and to inform the passengers on continued basis to avoid any inconvenience to them.