

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:242

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFTS

Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India has in the recent past purchased/ leased several aircrafts to increase its share in the Industry;
- (b) if so, the details of purchases/leasing of aircrafts during each of the last three years and plans for the future;
- (c) the market share of Air India before and after merger; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase its market share?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS & MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) and (b): Erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines had placed orders with M/s. Boeing and M/s. Airbus Industries for purchase of 68 and 43 aircraft respectively. The aircraft deliveries commenced in October,2006 and will continue till 2014. Till date 81 aircraft have been delivered, out of which 28 aircraft were delivered during 2006 and 2007, 14 during 2008, 29 during 2009 and 10 during 2010. The balance 30 aircraft which are yet to be delivered are 3XB777 + 27XB787s. The deliveries of the last three B777-300 aircraft have been postponed as part of the re-structuring exercise. The B787 aircraft deliveries have been delayed by Boeing. As regards leased aircraft, Air India has 46 leased aircraft which includes 7 aircraft under the process of being returned to the Lessor. The Air India Board has approved leasing of ten A320 aircraft as replacements for the old owned A320 aircraft and four A330 aircraft as replacements for old A310s aircraft.

(c): Government had approved the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines in March, 2007. The market share of erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines before merger was 15.1% and 9.6% respectively. After merger, the market share of Air India for the period January-September, 2010 was 23.8%(Prov.).

(d): Air India has taken various steps to increase its market share which includes (i) All major routes are operated with the new B777 aircraft.(ii) The Delhi hub has been operationalised. Air India now connects 21 international and 45 destinations over Delhi. (iii) introduction of new flights. (iv) Entry into Star Alliance. (v) Operational turnaround plan focussing on fleet rationalisation, route profitability and other structural changes.