

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:52

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

STRIKE BY AI PILOTS

Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India pilots went on strike in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the number of times the pilots of Air India went on strike during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the number of flights affected/ cancelled/rescheduled and the extent of loss suffered by Air India due to strike/quitting of pilots during the above period;

(d) the action taken by the Government against erring pilots/staff and to compensate the losses suffered by Air India;

(e) whether the Government has constituted a committee/held meetings with representatives of Air India/Indian Airlines pilots to look into their grievances; and

(f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e) and (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d),(e) and (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.52 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2011 REGARDING STRIKE BY AI PILOTS TABLED BY SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY AND PROF. (DR.) RANJAN PRASAD YADAV, MPs.

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. The Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) went on strike during 27.04.2011 to 06.05.2011 which led to disruption of large number of flights. The ICPA has raised several demands including parity in working conditions and emoluments between erstwhile Indian Airlines and erstwhile Air India Pilots, payment of fixed flying hours and fixed subsistence Allowance payable in dollars every month. The Pilots have not gone on strike on any other occasions in the last three years except the one mentioned above. However, the Executive Pilots of Air India had reported sick in a concerted manner from 26.09.2009 till late evening of 30.09.2009.

(c): The details of the flights cancelled/rescheduled is Annexed. The estimated revenue loss suffered by Air India on account of the strike is around Rs.200 crores.

(d): Air India terminated 6 pilots and 3 Executive Pilots. Apart from this, 7 pilots were suspended and also the union of ICPA de-recognized. No salary has been paid to the pilots for strike period.

(e) and (f): To resolve the disparities to the HR issues like level mapping, compensation harmonization etc. for all employees including pilots, Government has appointed a committee headed by Justice D.M. Dharmadhikari, a retired Judge of Supreme Court to independently and impartially look into all the HR integration issues, including pay parity, working conditions, seniority etc. The Committee has already started examination of issues and has also held meetings with the Pilots Association among others.

Annexure

Details of flights cancelled/rescheduled during the strike by Air India Pilots

Date Scheduled Operated Cancelled

27.04.2011	216	154	62
28.04.2011	102	51	51
29.04.2011	60	51	09
30.04.2011	57	41	16
01.05.2011	49	49	0

02.05.2011	42	42	0
03.05.2011	35	35	0
04.05.2011	51	45	6
05.05.2011	40	38	2
06.05.2011	48	47	1
07.05.2011	73	73	0

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During the initial period, flights were cancelled due to strike.

However, with effect from April 28, 2011, flights were curtailed to minimal operation.

Air India operates an average of approx. 220 flights per day.

During the strike period, i.e. from April, 27- May 07, 2011, out of the total of 2420 flights, Air India could operate only 773 flights which is about 32% of the normal operations