

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4216
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
AI AEROPLANES FLEET
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current fleet of aeroplanes with Air India alongwith the number of pilots and other crew members;
- (b) whether the ratio of aeroplanes and crew members of Air India are as per the international practice to make the Air India viable and vibrant;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make the national carrier viable in the international aviation scenario?

Answer

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a): At present, Air India has 121 aircraft in its fleet. The number of pilots and the other crew members as on 31.1.2012 are as under:-

Narrow Body Wide Body

Pilots 819 714

Cabin Crew 1277 1859

In addition, 9 pilots in narrow body and 15 pilots in wide body aircraft have been engaged on contract.

(b) and (c): As regards operating crew, the number of operating crew required per aircraft is determined by the pattern of operation and the governing flight and duty time limitation set by the Regulatory Body of the respective Countries. Air India complies with the regulations of the Indian Regulations, viz. Director General of Civil Aviation.

(d): Air India has taken several initiatives towards cost cutting and revenue enhancement which includes

- (i) Complete route rationalization of erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines routes and elimination of route network involving;
- (ii) Rationalization of certain loss making routes;
- (iii) Induction of brand new aircraft on several domestic & international routes to increase passengers appeal;
- (iv) Phasing out of old fleet and consequential reduction in maintenance cost; v) Return of leased aircraft at the end of their tenure or prematurely;
- (vi) Freezing of employment in non-operational areas;
- (vii) Redeployment of staff to cut in-fructuous expenditure;
- (i) Grounding of ageing fleet including B747-400 which would be used only for certain lines of operations and for operating VVIP flights;
- (ii) Relocation of EDs/IBOs from abroad back to India;
- (iii) Closure of overseas offline offices at certain locations;
- (iv) Dismantling of the Frankfurt hub and establishment of the Delhi hub resulting in substantial saving due to restructuring of routes;
- (v) Establishment of Integrated Operations Control Centres.