

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:371
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
FLIGHT SCHEDULES OF AIR INDIA
Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India has formulated its time schedule of various sectors keeping in view the schedule of private operators in the prevailing competitive scenario;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Air India proposes to change its time schedule for its Surat-Delhi and Delhi-Surat flights as the passengers traffic has been declining on the route due to operation of other flight operators at around the same schedule and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Air India or other flight operators have shown interest to start flights to connect other destinations from Surat and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Air India to prepare their flight schedule so as to attract more passengers and make themselves competitive in the domestic aviation sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED () QUESTION NO.371 FOR 02.05.2012 REGARDING FLIGHT SCHEDULES OF AIR INDIA TABLED BY SMT. DARSHANA JARDOSH, MP.

(a) and (b): Domestic schedules are determined by each of the scheduled airlines based on their independent assessment of demand, availability of requisite resources and subject to allotment of the requisite time slots at the various airports in India. It also follows that in successive seasons, as long as fresh slots are made available to the operating airlines, some airlines or the other is expected to introduce new flights on a sector which is scheduled to depart around the same time as some existing services of its competitors. Air India also formulates its schedule on the basis of demands, resources and time slots allotment at the airports and in a competitive mode.

(c) and (d): The current capacity available with the airline and its operating resources are committed to the present and planned schedule. At this time, due to scheduling constraints arising out of the present aircraft availability, it is difficult to add to the existing schedule. The possibility of rescheduling of flights to/from Surat can be considered once its operational resources are augmented. Air India's subsidiary, Alliance Air, however, operates on the Delhi - Surat - Delhi with a CRJ-700 aircraft thrice a week. In addition to Alliance Airline, Spice Jet have also commenced scheduled air services to/from Surat. The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(e): In order to attract more passenger Air India prepare its network and flight schedules in the domestic market is as follows:

Match the capacity offered by Air India on various sectors to the estimated demand.

Offer well-spaced out (during the morning, mid day and evening hours), multiple flights daily on the busy metro routes where the competition is intense and higher occupancy can be achieved only by providing passengers with maximum flexibility and choice of flights.

Air India offers two/three flights per day on other routes with potential for generating high loads and revenues.

Increase frequency of operations on all other domestic routes to get to a daily basis. Air India has by and large achieved this goal. All of Air India's domestic flights are operated on a daily basis with the exception of Kolkata/Bagdogra and some routes operated with ATR/CRJ aircraft.

Increase connectivity between the National capital (and Air India's primary hub) Delhi and other State Capitals. Currently, Air India has direct flights between Delhi and 48 domestic destinations.