

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1239
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
NEW SCHEME FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS
Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Singh Shri Mahabali

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any new scheme/international business plan for international flights of the Air India facing financial crisis and strike by pilots;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) and (b): Air India has taken several measures to improve and restructure its schedules for international flights. Some of the significant measures are as under:

- (i): All long-haul routes have been upgraded and are now operated with B-777-200LR/300 ER aircraft.
- (ii) Operations on the regional international routes have been upgraded and are operated with A321/320/319 aircraft to improve the product perception and passenger load factors and revenues.
- (iii) The ground times at New York, Chicago and Toronto have been reduced to increase B-777 aircraft utilization without adversely impacting the schedules.
- (iv) Air India's hub operations at Delhi have been progressively strengthened to derive the greater hub benefits. The hub operations at Delhi have given rise to international transfer passenger.
- (v) The international connectivity to/from major Indian metros other than Mumbai and Delhi has been significantly enhanced through increased number of conveniently connecting flight to attract more long haul traffic to Air India.
- (vi) Air India has a plan to replace B-777-200LR aircraft with B787 aircraft which would be more cost efficient.
- (vii) Air India has planned to introduce non-stop services to Melbourne/Sydney with B787 aircraft.

Due to agitation of pilots, Air India restructured its operations on long haul international routes and put in place a schedule to operate maximum possible flights and ensure connectivity to maximum destinations so as to cause least inconvenience to the passengers. However, the agitation has now been called off and the pilots are joining their operational duties in phases.

- (c): Not applicable in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.