

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3438
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
AI PILOTS
Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of pilots in Air India are getting heavy pay packets by flying just one or two hours a month and if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any inquiry has since been initiated in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) the details of number of pilots required by Air India, their present strength and the surplus, if any;
- (d) whether Air India has withheld the payments due to its employees; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

- (a): No, Madam. All Pilots are being paid pay and allowances in accordance with the agreements signed by the Management with its Unions and Guilds.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): The details regarding the number of Pilots required, the present strength and surplus / shortage for Air India is annexed.
- (d) and (e): Salaries to the employees of Air India have been paid upto May 2012 and PLI payable in April 2012 has been paid. Pilots who were on agitation have been paid salaries upto to March,2012 (except pilots who were terminated). Flying allowances have been paid upto April 2012 to Pilots who were not on agitation and pilots who were on agitation have been paid up to February,2012 (except 85 pilots who were terminated) and Flying allowances to Cabin Crew have been paid upto March, 2012.

Delay in payment of salaries has been due to severe financial crunch on account of following reasons:-

- (i) Abnormal increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel cost.
- (ii) High Taxes.
- (iii) High airport fees and levies.
- (iv) Intense competition among airlines for market share due to excess capacity resulting in lower yields / losses.
- (v) Increase in interest burden on aircraft loans due to strengthening of dollar.