

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4396

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AI SERVICES

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**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any fresh initiatives have been planned by the Government to bring the services provided in Air India flights like catering etc. up to the international standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Air India has been calling for a level playing field in operations vis-a-vis private carriers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the progress made so far in this direction?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION ( SHRI AJIT SINGH )

(a) and (b): Air India has made considerable efforts to improvise the menu and provide variety of meals to its passengers. In domestic sectors, 6 cycle menus have been introduced for Executive and Economy Class, changing on every alternate day on flights with more than 90 minutes flying. In international sectors, Air India has introduced ethnic Regional Indian meals from the respective regions based on the origin of the flight. Air India also offers meals on health grounds, religious, diabetic, low fat, high fibre, lactose free low sodium diet, etc. On religious grounds, MOML (Muslim meal), Kosher Meal JNML (Jain meal) are uplifted on sectors with specific demand for such meals.

(c), (d) and (e): The government is committed to provide regulatory framework based on the principle of transparency, growth forecast and sectoral specific demands from the operators. This gives a n opportunity to all operators to grow. Recently, government has announced External Commercial Borrowings(ECB) and direct import of ATF by the airline operators to help the sector grow and prosper.