

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4558

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012

LEASE OF AIRCRAFT BY AI

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to privatise Air India (AI) in view of its chronic loss making trends and to lease out aircrafts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Central Vigilance Commission has awarded major penalties against a number of pilots of Air India and its subsidiaries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of pilots selected so far to fly Dreamliner aircraft and the criteria adopted for their selection; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to relieve the surplus staff from AI and its subsidiaries and to lease out aircraft?

Answer

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): 65 Pilots have been selected so far to fly the Dreamliner aircraft. The criteria adopted for their selection is that the pilot should be less than 53 years as on 1.5.2012 to be able to serve Air India for a minimum of five years after the training.

(f): In order to rationalise manpower for achieving optimum utilisation and as a part of Turn Around Plan (TAP), Air India has approved a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for all permanent and confirmed employees of the Company who are in Indian Scales of Pay and have rendered a continuous service of minimum of 15 years in the Company or have reached minimum age of 40 years as on date of the closure of the scheme. Employees holding licences/approval from DGCA as part of their job requirements like aircraft engineers, pilot, simulator maintenance engineers, approved flight disptchers, service engineers etc. are not eligible. The proposed VRS scheme targets a total of approximately 5000 employees.