

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:585
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013
AIR TRAFFIC
Maharaj Shri Satpal

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage of growth of air traffic had decreased during the years 2011 and 2012 over the preceding years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any plan to encourage people to undertake air travel;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the achievements likely to be made as a result thereof?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 585 DATED 08.05.2013 REGARDING 'AIR TRAFFIC'

(a) and (b): The air passenger traffic had shown positive growth in the year 2011, but it was negative during the year 2012. The details are under-

Year	No. of passenger rate	Growth (in million)	(percentage)
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2010	52		
2011	60.7	16.7	
2012	58.8	-3.1	

Kingfisher Airlines which was operating a sizeable number of flights, carrying considerable number of passengers started withdrawing its flight on various routes gradually and eventually stopped operating from October, 2012 resulting in fall in passenger traffic. Besides, the Global Economic Slowdown, rise in the prices of ATF and bad financial health of domestic airlines industry also impacted Air traffic adversely.

(c) to (e): Civil aviation sector is a dynamic sector. Government has taken several sector specific measures to bolster Air traffic growth, important ones are:

- (i) creation/upgradation of infrastructure at airports,
 - (ii) promotion of air connectivity to smaller cities through policy initiatives such as introduction of Route Dispersal Guidelines, Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services, exemption on various charges for smaller aircraft operation,
 - (iii) allowing direct import of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF),
 - (iv) allowing Foreign Direct Investment by foreign airlines in Indian carriers up to 49%,
 - (v) allowing External Commercial Borrowing upto 1\$ billion by airlines, and
 - (vi) facilitating airlines for acquisition of aircraft by abolition of aircraft acquisition committee for purpose of expansion of their fleet.
- These measures are going to provide impetus to the growth of civil aviation sector and enhancement of air services.