

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6737
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013
SELLING OF AI AIRCRAFT
Saha Shri Anup Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India has sold off/proposes to sell of its Boeing aircraft;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the fleet being sold off;
- (c) the average age of the fleet of active aircraft of Air India;
- (d) whether instances of any active aircraft being sold before their average age have come to the light of the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Air India is planning to sell its B777-200LR (Long Range) aircraft. Air India had inducted eight Boeing B777-200LR aircraft in its fleet in a phased manner between the year 2007- 2010. These airplanes were inducted to cater to Ultra Long Range Non-Stop operations between India and USA. Due to steep increase in fuel prices, some of the ultra long operations such as Bengaluru to San Francisco never commenced. Further, the Market dynamics changed significantly due to the global recession. It was found that the yield from nonstop routes of B777-200LR was poor. Hence, it has been decided to sell 5 of these B777-200LR aircraft to reduce the loan burden.

(c): Average age of the fleet of active aircraft of Air India is 7.8 years.

(d): Air India has not sold any aircraft in its fleet before their average age.

(e): Does not arise in view of part (d) above.