

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3446
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2009
CANCELLATION OF AIR INDIA FLIGHT
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has cancelled Air India's Chennai-Tiruchi-Sharjah flight;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the decision to stop this flight has put many people of southern States who are working in Gulf countries into difficulty;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to restore this service keeping in view the difficulties of people working in Gulf Countries;and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e): As part of an exercise to rationalize the services operated by Air India and its subsidiaries on common routes, the airline has withdrawn its Chennai-Trichy-Sharjah flight and has replaced it with Air India Express daily service on Chennai-Trichy-Dubai route (the distance between Dubai and Sharjah airport is about 20Kms). The erstwhile A320 service under the IC Code was incurring losses because of tough competition despite good load factor and drastic reduction in fares by the competitors. This low cost carrier route has been introduced to meet the competition. Air India does not have plans to restore the services ex-Trichy to Sharjah in view of the reasons mentioned above.