

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1871
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015
AIR INDIA FLIGHTS
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India is considering to increase the occupancy in its flights and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the flights which are not meeting fuel cost are likely to be discontinued by Air India and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the flights which are not meeting variable costs would be closely monitored and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the scheduling department will ensure quick turnaround of flights and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) : Yes, Madam. The initiatives taken by Air India to increase the flight occupancy in respect to the carriage of passengers is at Annexure.;

(b) & (c) : Air India continually monitors the carriage / load factors / financial performance of services on its network and makes efforts to improve their performance. Whenever any services give rise to cash losses, AI analyses the reasons for the losses and based on the strategic importance of such services to its network, arrives at a decision whether to continue or withdraw such services. While determining the desirability or otherwise of discontinuing operations of loss-making services, Air India takes into account the revenue contributions made by the subject services to its other services by way of feeder traffic. As such non profitability of any one flight is not taken in isolation as the sole barometer of its financial performance.

Air India has recently withdrawn following services not meeting their cash cost of operations

AI 985 Ahmedabad / Mumbai leg effective 16.11.2014;
AI 643 Mumbai / Ahmedabad effective 29.10.2014;
AI 231/232 Delhi / Dhaka / Delhi effective 21.02.2015 ;

Air India has also reduced frequency of flights AI-155/AI-156 Delhi-Moscow v route from 4 flights/week to 2 flights/week with effect from 25th February to 15th April, 2015 as the flight was not meeting its variable cost of operations.

(d) : Scheduling department prepares the schedules based on the assessment of demands by its marketing & sales teams, availability of requisite resources and subject to allotment of the requisite time slots at the various airports in India.

The scheduling Department optimizes the deployment of the airline's resources in order to meet demands and maximize profits.

While creating a schedule, primary importance is assigned to consistency of the schedule. As per increased or reduced resource availability, the schedule is modified so as to ensure that minimum disturbance is created in the existing schedule of operations of the Airline.

Scheduling section ensures adequate ground time is provided as required for servicing the aircraft in transit halts at various airports.