

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3577
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2014
MUMBAI NEWARK FLIGHT OF AIR INDIA
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;P. Shri Nagarajan

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India has been incurring heavy losses on its Mumbai-Newark flight due to the massive billboards erected near the Mumbai airport and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a large number of seats in the said flight have to be kept vacant each time Air India flies on this route and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Air India has taken up the issue of billboards with the concerned authorities and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the authorities thereto; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri G.M. Siddeshwara)

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. Obstacles like hoardings, poles etc in the take off path of the runway at Mumbai airport, have created operational constraints, leading to the Air India flight on Mumbai-Newark sector being operated with 51 passengers less than the capacity. The loss in revenue due to less carriage of passengers is estimated at Rs.10 crores per month approx.
- (c) & (d) : Yes, Madam. Air India has taken up the issue with Airports Authority of India (AAI), who have removed some of the obstacles and revised the elevation of a few obstacles. This has resulted in some benefit to Air India.