

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:316

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2014

ROUTES OF AIR INDIA

Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan;Sawant Shri Arvind Ganpat

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of domestic and international routes being operated by the Air India at present;
- (b) the details of new flights introduced by Air India to various domestic and international destinations during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether Air India has discontinued its flights on certain loss making routes both domestic and international;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the routes which are running in loss; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make loss making routes of Air India viable?

**Answer**

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Ashok Gajapati Raju Pusapati)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.316 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2014 REGARDING ROUTES OF AIR INDIA - TABLED BY SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE AND SHRI ARVIND SAWANT, MPs.

(a) : The details of domestic and international routes being operated by Air India are given at Annexure -i & ii respectively.

(b) : The new services / routes started by Air India in the last 3 years on both Domestic and international sectors is given at Annexure-iii.

(c) to (e): Civil Aviation is a highly, dynamic and competitive sector. Profit of a route depends on multiple factors such as seasonality of demand, economic growth, festivals, weather patterns etc. and routes do not remain profitable or loss making permanently. In view of the commercially confidential nature as well as its psychological impact on travel patterns, the information cannot be revealed.

Further, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need of different regions of the country. The domestic air services in the country have been deregulated. It is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. The Scheduled domestic airlines are free to operate anywhere within the country subject to compliance of RDG.

The Indian carriers are eligible to operate to foreign destinations as per the respective bilateral air services agreements with concerned foreign countries. However, actual operations by any airline are always guided by its commercial judgement depending upon the traffic demand and economic viability of operations. The information regarding financial performance of any route is commercially confidential in nature and, therefore, cannot be revealed.

Some of the measures taken in order to improve the performance of Air India and to cut down its losses, are as follows:

- (i) Return of leased aircraft;
- (ii) Introduction of brand new fleet on several domestic and international routes thereby increasing passenger appeal;
- (iii) Critical analysis of fuel consumption on all flights;
- (iv) Increase in passenger, cargo, excess baggage revenue through aggressive sales and marketing efforts including a separate Cell for attracting Government traffic.