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Title: Need to review the decision of Air India to discontinue serving non-vegetarian meals on-board for economy class travelers.

SHRI SULTAN AHMED (ULUBERIA): Surveys of the eating habits of Indians suggest that the number of Indians who eat meat ranges from 71% to 88%

(Census of Indian Anthropological Society).

Air India has decided to stop serving non-vegetarian food to its economy class passengers on domestic flights. Air India has taken an unconscious decision that non-vegetarian meal in economy class on its domestic flights will reduce wastage and costs of catering service. Banning of non-veg meal will not lead to the chances of mixing up of non-veg and veg meal.

Indian Railway also serves non-vegetarian and vegetarian meal together with no complaint. If the railway manages to serve many more meals every day without mixing up vegetarian with non-veg, it is not clear why Air India is unable to do so.

It is reported that some fundamentalist NGOs have asked all airlines to stop serving non-vegetarian food items on board for flyers.

Considering the food habit of the citizens and keeping in mind the diversity of the Indian culture, Government should curb this kind of decision and ask the Air India to improve the catering service and resist the fundamental pressure in national interest and restore earlier ethnicity in catering services.