

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding the decision to disinvest Air India.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): Thank you very much, Madam. The Government has recently proposed a strategic disinvestment for Air India, and my submission is for the Government to reconsider it.

My argument goes like this that for decades together Air India has stood the test of time and I am sure that everybody will agree with me in the House and outside the House that Air India has really served the country so very well. Whenever we needed Air India's service for evacuation of any Indians anywhere in the world, it was Air India, and for various pilgrimage, etc. Air India was used. Even our hon. Prime Ministers very proudly travel by 'Air India One'.

Air India has been a hub of training pilots, training engineers and today, if we have private airlines, it is thanks to Air India's training programme.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Air India is our national carrier.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Yes, it is, and all the countries in the world protect their national carrier. ...
(Interruptions)

Madam, I will take one more minute, and I guarantee you that I will be done. I have always compared Air India with AIIMS. Today if we have the private hospitals, thanks to AIIMS for providing technicians, doctors, nurses, etc.

In conclusion, when it comes to private sector and if you see the NPAs, they are in lakhs and lakhs of crores of rupees. Banks give them restructuring and all the other facilities. That is also Government money. Recently because of various management expertise and the new man who has come to the Railways, it has done very well and we are having operating profits. So, my urge and request to the Government is, that we are very proud of our national carrier. The problem was with the management. We have lucrative routes to the private airlines. All the problem is because of the management; and at the Government level, it was bad. Air India has the best of staff. I am sure, Air India would do proud to India. I urge the Government to kindly reconsider as it is already making an operating profit. Certain improvement is definitely required. All your seats are going full. I urge you, and through you, to the Government to kindly reconsider this proposal.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Jitendra Chaudhury,

Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher,

Shri (Md.) Badaruddoza Khan,

Shri Sankar Prasad Datta,

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal,

Shri Rajendra Agrawal,

Shri Dushyant Chautala,

Shri George Baker,

Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya,

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and

Shri N.K. Premachandran are allowed to be associated with the issue raised by Shri Dinesh Trivedi.