

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what were the objectives of the merger of Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI);
- (b) whether those objectives have been met;
- (c) what was the extent of profit/loss of Air India at the time of merger;
- (d) what is the extent of losses now;
- (e) whether the losses have increased ever since merger;
- (f) if so, the details of annual losses ever since merger; and
- (g) the reasons for increase in losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) The integration of the two airlines was done with the objectives of developing seamless connectivity, network of regional operations, short to medium haul trunk operations and long haul operations resulting in an improved product offering through wider network coverage. The merger would also provide significant synergy for procurement, sales and distribution besides affording an opportunity for leveraging common assets.

(b) Fulfilment of the objectives of the merger is an on-going process.

(c) At the time of merger *i.e.* 2006-07, the loss of Air India was Rs.447.93 crores.

(d) The loss for 2008-09 is Rs.5000 crores (approximately).

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The loss for the year 2007-08 was Rs.2226.16 crores and it is expected to be of the order of Rs.5,000 crores (Prov.) during the year 2008-09. The main reasons for the losses are prevalent economic recession, low yields, load factors, decline in cargo and freight revenue, increase in fuel expenditure in 2008-09 and increase in aircraft maintenance expenditure.

#### Setting up small airports

†1998. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has carried out any survey to find out the possibility of starting small airports of linking local areas with the capitals of the respective States;

(b) if so, the details of such survey; and

(c) the details of new air-routes started during each of the last three years and new air-routes proposed during the year 2009-10, State-wise?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of new sectors started during last three years and proposed air routes during 2009-10 are as under: 2006-07-Chennai-Tuticorin-Chennai; 2007-08-Kolkata-Jamshedpur-Kolkata; 2008-09-Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi, Mumbai-Latur-Nanded-Mumbai, Mumbai-Nasik-Mumbai, Mumbai-Sholapur-Mumbai; and 2009-10-Chennai-Salem-Chennai.

#### **Safety measures for Civil Aviation**

1999. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:  
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has initiated an audit of maintenance procedure of major airlines to check whether the projected losses this fiscal year are leading to a compromise on passenger safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some airlines are not following proper safety measures in view of losses; and

(d) if so, how Government is going to ensure that the airlines are adopting all safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):  
(a) and (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducts technical audits of the maintenance procedures of major airlines. During these technical audits, it is checked whether any compromise is made with regard to spare parts, components etc. and whether it is due to shortage of funds.

(c) DGCA audit has shown no such compromise.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of aerospace SEZ in the country**

2000. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:  
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed agreements with major international players to set up aerospace Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and under what terms and conditions;

(c) whether Government has allowed international players to set up aerospace SEZ in the country; and