

Merger of Air India and Indian Airlines

14. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines has actually not moved much beyond a common billboard and holding company;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what steps Government proposes to take for actual merger?

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

- (a) No, Sir. Several steps in the integration process of both the Companies have been completed in various areas.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Government is providing all the necessary support to Air India for early completion of merger process.

Increase of air fare by airlines

15. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Kingfisher, Jet Lite and Jet Airways have been arbitrarily increasing air fares by imposing fuel surcharge;
- (b) if so, the details of the fares increased by these airlines during the last two years;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have no role to play in the increase of prices of air fares by private airlines; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) The details of fuel surcharges in the year 2008 are as follows, which have been charged by the scheduled domestic airlines per passenger per sector depending upon the sector distance:—

April, 2008	—	Rs. 1800/- to Rs. 2000/-
May, 2008	—	Rs. 1950/- to Rs. 2350/-
June, 2008	—	Rs. 2250/- to Rs. 2900/-
November, 2008	—	Rs. 1950/- to Rs. 2700/-

In the first week of November, 2009, scheduled domestic airlines increased the fuel surcharge by Rs. 100/- to Rs. 200/-. Accordingly, all scheduled domestic airlines were charging fuel surcharge varying between Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 3300/- per passenger per sector depending upon sector distance and type of service. Effective January, 2010, the fuel surcharge levied by scheduled domestic airlines vary between Rs. 1200/- to 3450/- per passenger per sector

depending upon sector distance and type of service. Certain fares offered by some of the scheduled domestic airlines have zero fuel surcharge. However, the fuel surcharge is not a tax to the Government. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has now issued guidelines whereby airlines are not to give a breakup of fuel surcharge as it may mislead the passengers.

(c) and (d) Air fares are not being regulated by the Government. However, DGCA only monitors the fares of the airlines.

Proposal of SOP

16. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has come up with a proposal of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for VVIP flight movements;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the minor/major accidents involving VVIPs reported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to collate all the instructions and lay down Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for conduct/operation of VVIP/VIP flights, a Joint Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) between Airports Authority of India and Indian Air Force has been finalised and approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation. As per the SOP VVIP term means and include the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister of India and foreign Heads of States/Government.

- (c) During the said period no accident was reported to VVIP flights.

Recommendations of GoMs on financial restructuring of AI

17. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Group of Ministers (GoMs) set up by Government on the financial restructuring of the Air India (AI) has recommended salary cuts of employees;
- (b) if so, whether the Air India's losses would be under control in case the recommendations of the GoMs are accepted;
- (c) if so, to what extent and whether the employees of Air India or union of employees have agreed to the proposals of the GoMs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) The Group of Ministers (GoMs) in its meeting held on 3.2.10 has considered measures towards rationalisation and harmonization of revenues and costs including that of wages.