

Moreover, ground handling is a competitive business and airlines are free to choose who handle their ground operations from those eligible to conduct ground handling operations.

(b) The annual income earned by Air India through ground handling is Rs. 466 crores.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Overseas offices of AI

3377. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India, which is facing losses in crores, has been maintaining overseas offices in cities to which it does not fly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expenditure incurred in running such overseas offices has been much more than the revenue generated from that station/office in the past several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the responsibility fixed by Government on running such overseas offices?

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

(a) and (b) Air India has offices in 13 cities where it does not have its own flights. These are Los Angeles, Amsterdam, Milan, Vienna, Copenhagen, Zurich, Brussels, Moscow, Cairo, Tehran, Nairobi, Sydney and Chittagong.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Purchase of new aircrafts by Air India

3378. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India (AI) has purchased new aircrafts and sold them;

(b) if so, the details of the aircrafts that have been purchased, with date of purchase, and date of their sale;

(c) the reasons for the sale of aircrafts;

(d) whether it is also a fact that AI has taken on lease those aircrafts, which were sold; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (e) No, Sir. No new aircraft have actually been sold by Air India. However, Air India in 2009 accepted delivery of 3 B777-200LR aircraft and 4 B777-300ER aircraft by arranging a Bridge loan facility from Standard Chartered Bank secured by a mortgage over the aircraft.