

(c) The re-branding of erstwhile Indian Airlines was meant to communicate a bold striking progressive and distinctive image of the airline.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Meeting of AI Directors with PMO

335. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some independent Directors of Air India have met some top officials of Prime Minister Office (PMO) recently;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is unprecedented, unwarranted and un-called for on the part of the independent Directors to meet officials of PMO on Air India's problems; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the independent Directors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Independent Directors of Air India had sought an appointment with the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister to informally discuss matters relating to the airline. They met him on 1.11.2010.

Package for Air India

336. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given a package of 1,200 crores to Air India to tide over its financial difficulties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what ails Air India and the steps proposed to be taken to make it self-reliant, efficient, competitive and role model of world class air service?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Government has infused an amount of Rs. 1200 crores in January, 2011 as equity in Air India with a view to address the debt equity ratio and give flexibility to the company in its financial restructuring.

(c) Air India is passing through financial crisis because of increase in fuel prices, interest and depreciation costs, wage bill as well as leasing and maintenance cost. The turnaround plan prepared by the company focuses on cost reduction/revenue enhancement, fleet rationalization, route profitability and manpower rationalization and other structural changes.