

(b) if so, when would the demand for to and fro Srinagar flights be organised in the evenings?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Srinagar airport is a Defence Airport and Air Traffic Control (ATC) is provided by Indian Air Force (IAF). Presently, civil flights are permitted to operate upto 1500 hours only and aircraft operations beyond 1500 hours is subject to approval by IAF.

Purchasing of aircraft

1288. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General has raised question over Government's reasoning for its order for 111 aircraft priced at Rs. 50,000 crore for State-owned carriers Air India and the erstwhile Indian Airlines;

(b) whether CAG also demanded to know the urgency for Aircrafts when out of 68 ordered, around 40 Boeing aircraft had already been delivered to Air India and all 43 Airbus aircraft ordered for erstwhile Indian Airlines also delivered; and

(c) the reasons for Air India's dwindling domestic market share and rationale behind the merger of the two airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) CAG report is yet to be tabled in Parliament.

(c) Market share is not an indicator of an airline's success in a hugely growing market. However, to maintain dominance over the market it was necessary to merge the two airlines so that the domestic feed into international market because seamless and convenient to the passengers. There were many other advantages of the merger - such as merger of financial resources, of logistics, stores, economics in purchase of fuel, insurance, IT software and systems etc.

Turn around plan for Air India

1289. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any turn around plan has been prepared for Air India by Group of Minister;

(b) if not, by when such plan would be ready; and

(c) the broad parameters/areas which the Ministry/GoM thought to focus to bring back AI on track?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Group of Ministers in its meeting held in February, 2010 had directed Air India to come up with a viable and credible Turn Around Plan (TAP) which were presented by Air India to the GOM in June, 2011. Upon the directions of the GOM, the TAP and FRP are being examined by a Group of Officers drawn from different Ministries.

(c) The TAP constitutes operational and financial restructuring. Operations restructuring includes increasing market share, improving on time performance, increasing passenger load factor etc. The FRP involves restructuring of working capital loan, equity infusion by Government, unlocking value of assets etc.

Revival plan for Air India

1290. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) total accumulated loss suffered by the Air India so far;
- (b) total number of flights cancelled by the Air India during the last three years, sector-wise;
- (c) how many aircrafts, which are of 25 or more years age, are operated by the Air India;
- (d) the action plan to replace the aging aircrafts; and
- (e) whether Government is contemplating any revival plan for the Air India, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) From 2007-08 to 2010-11 Air India has suffered loss of Rs.20320.86 Crores (including provisional accounts for 2010-11).

- (b) Information is being collected.
- (c) Only one aircraft which is more than 25 years of age, is operated by Air India.
- (d) Air India plans to replace this aircraft with the B-787 aircraft, for which orders have been placed in December, 2005, one it arrives and is ready for service.
- (e) On the directions of Group of Ministers Air India has prepared a Turn Around Plan (TAP) and Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP), which is being examined by a Group of Officers.

Modernisation of ATC system

1291. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: