

Strike of the Air India pilots

†940. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recent strike of Air India pilots in the country alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the routes on which flights were affected and the losses suffered by Air India due to the strike of pilots;

(c) whether Government is considering to recover the losses of Air India from the pilots who went on strike; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) A section of Air India pilots represented by Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) started reporting sick in a concerted manner effective 1900 hours on 7.5.2012. The pilots agitation continued for nearly 60 days and was called off *w.e.f.* 3.7.2012. The agitation was primarily against the decision of the Management to fulfill its commitment made before the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 2.5.2012 regarding training of pilots of the erstwhile Indian Airlines on Boeing 787 aircraft.

(b) Due to the agitation of pilots, Air India's operations on long haul international routes were affected. Air India restructured its operations and put in place a schedule to operate maximum possible flights and ensure connectivity to maximum destinations so as to cause least inconvenience to the passengers. As per revised schedule Air India operated 39 international flights per day as against its normal schedule of 46 flights per day. Air India flights to Toronto, Seoul, Hong Kong and Osaka could not be operated due to strike. The revenue loss suffered by Air India due to recent strike of the pilots is approximately Rs.600 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Investment in airport projects

941. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the investments in the airport projects in the country is not keeping pace with the growth of the economy;

(b) whether this is leading to poor air connectivity in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government proposes to revise the airport investment policy in the Twelfth Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The growth in the investment in the airport infrastructure in the country has been higher than the growth of economy because air passengers traffic has been consistently growing at a higher growth rate than the growth rate of GDP. The passengers traffic from 2001-2002 to 2011-2012 (last 10 years) has grown @ 15% as against the GDP growth rate of 7% to 9%. To cope up with the higher growth of air traffic, the investment in airports was made keeping with the growth in the traffic.

(b) No, Sir. At the end of Eleventh Plan (2007-2012), total passenger handling capacity at all Indian airports was 197.77 million against the demand of 162.30 million passengers *i.e.* capacity is ahead of demand.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shifting of Air India base to Delhi

942. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to shift the Air India base to Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rise in revenues of Air India

943. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revenues of Air India saw a rise by 21 per cent in April to June quarter despite the two month long strike by a section of its pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Air India has suffered a huge loss due to two month long strike by a section of its pilots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?