

(c) the reasons behind lack of promptness in giving information to passengers about cancellation, diversion or delay of flights and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Alliance Air (a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India) commenced flights on Delhi/Gorakhpur/Delhi *w.e.f.* 15th January 2016 with ATR-72-600 aircraft. The schedule is as under:

AI 809 Delhi/Gorakhpur dep. 1215 arr. 1415  
(days 123456)

AI 810 Gorakhpur/Delhi dep. 1445 arr. 1645  
(days 123456)

(b) The details of flight operated to Gorakhpur from 15th January 2016 till 13th February 2016 is as under:

Flights Scheduled - 26

Flights Operated -19 Flights Cancelled - 7

Out of 7 flights, 6 flights were cancelled due to poor weather condition at the destination and 1 flight was cancelled due to operational reasons. One flight got diverted to lucknow due to poor weather conditions at Gorakhpur. However, passengers were provided connectivity to destination by road.

(c) All cancellations were announced at the airport only after ascertaining the facts, as these were not planned cancellations. Utmost care is taken not to cause any inconvenience to the passengers.

#### **Circular on eatables supplied in AI flights**

†498. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers and aware citizens have registered their protest on some points contained in the circular issued by the Ministry on December, 2015 regarding eatables supplied in the flights of Air India; and

(b) the purpose of issuing the above circular and whether the Ministry would withdraw its controversial points, and the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No such circular has been issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. However, Air India has issued a circular in December, 2015, whereby, effective January 2016, the meal service in economy class on flights with 61-90 minutes duration, was upgraded to serving of hot vegetarian meals instead of cold vegetarian meal being served earlier. However, there is no change in meal service of business class. This has been done based on the feedback of the passengers, and no adverse feedback/ protest have been received from the passengers.

#### **Review of airport charges**

499. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) to review airport charges particularly in metro airports;

(b) whether metro airports are levying User Development Fee (UDF) on incoming passengers; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to make air travel more affordable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. Government of India has established Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) in 2009 under an Act of Parliament viz. AERA Act, 2008 to determine the tariffs in respect of aeronautical services provided at major airports in the country.

(b) UDF on incoming passengers is levied only at Delhi Airport.

(c) AERA determines the aeronautical tariff in respect of major airports based on stakeholder consultation. The tariffs are reviewed and revised by AERA every five years considering the investment and expenditure incurred by the airport operator, improving efficiency and viability of the airport with a view to rationalize the charges.

#### **Forced payments in foreign currencies at International**

##### **Airports in the country**

500. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware about the incidents of the Indian citizens being forced to pay in foreign currency while in most of the shops at International