

[17 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

**Expansion of IA's routes**

1327. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to allow Indian Airlines to operate on more International routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of routes which have been permitted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Under the existing policy, Air India has the first right of refusal so far as operations on new international routes are concerned. Requests of Indian Airlines to operate more international services are considered on a case to case basis under the existing policy and the ongoing effort to achieve greater synergy in the operations of two national carriers.

(c) Indian Airlines is presently operating to UAE, (including Dubai), Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia and Maldives.

**Occupancy rate of national carriers**

1328. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sectors on which national carriers do not have adequate occupancy rate;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to attract passengers on the lines of private airliners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The occupancy rate depends on various factors like seasonality, competitor activities, fares etc. PSU airlines constantly monitor the seat factor on all the flights that they operate and appropriate changes are made in the schedule as and when required if the flight for a particular sector is not performing to the required levels. As far as Indian Airlines network is concerned, the