

**Purchase of new air buses**

†495. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to purchase new air buses/planes for Air India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Presently, there is no proposal to purchase new airbus/planes for Air India. However, Air India had signed agreement for dry leasing of 22 A-320 NEO aircraft. These aircrafts will be delivered between February 2017 and February, 2019.

**Air India flight from Ranchi to Delhi**

496. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government is planning to start Air India flight in the evening after 6 p.m. for Ranchi which, will be back to Delhi next morning by 11 a.m.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): No, Sir. Currently, Air India has no plan to start air services in the evening after 6 p.m. for Ranchi. However, GoI has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of RDG issued by the Government.

**Air India services connecting cities of Rajasthan**

†497. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total percentage of increase in number of passengers travelling in flights operated from major airports of Rajasthan in the year 2016-17, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to start Air India services connecting major cities of Rajasthan with each other?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.