

Status of Air India after privatisation

987. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps is the Ministry taking to protect the interests of the over 20,000 employees of Air India during the proposed privatisation of the airline;

(b) what are the total arrears in salaries and pensions of Air India employees at present; and

(c) what will happen to the concept of national air carrier; if Air India is privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) has approved the re-initiation of the strategic disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries. While finalising the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) for inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) for the strategic disinvestment of Air India, the AISAM would consider the matters related to the existing employees of Air India.

(b) The salary of Air India employees has been paid upto October, 2019. A provision of ₹ 1331.91 crore has been made in the accounts of the company as on 31.03.2019 for pending payment towards implementation of Justice Dharamadhikari (JDC) recommendations for implementing the revised basic pay of employees.

(c) The Government is committed to the Strategic Disinvestment of Air India. Any further financial support in a mature and competitive aviation market would not be the best use of scarce financial resources of the Government. Air India would have a status at par with other designated carriers of India, post-disinvestment.

Compulsory breath-analyzer test by DGCA for all staff of various airlines

988. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether breath analyzer test has been made compulsory by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for all the staff of various airlines and in Airports, the details thereof;