

bring operational and financial efficiency in Air India was finalised. The Plan focused on the financial and operational efficiencies so that substantial increase in revenue or cost saving can be achieved. Also, as decided in the meeting, operational and financial performance parameters and milestones were fixed by the Government and are regularly reviewed *via* review meetings held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Government, however, remains committed to the disinvestment of Air India.

(c) The details of the debt of Air India for the last three years as per audited, accounts are as given below:

Year	Amount
2018-19	₹ 58,255.89 crore
2017-18	₹ 55,308.52 crore
2016-17	₹ 48,447.37 crore

The main reasons for the increase in the debt burden of the company is due to the losses suffered on account of various reasons which, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) High interest burden,
- (ii) Increase in competition especially from low cost carriers,
- (iii) Adverse impact of exchange rate variation due to weakening of the Indian Rupee, and
- (iv) High operating costs.

Infrastructure development of aviation sector

†324. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the annual increase in the number of air passengers during the last five years and the numbers of such passengers likely to be increased by 2022; and

(b) the action plan made by Government for the infrastructure development of this sector and for construction of new airports, upgradation of existing airports considering the increase in the number of passengers?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) The annual increase in total air passenger throughput during the last five years is as under:

Year	Throughput (in Cr.)	Increase (in Cr.)	% Increase
2014-15	19.01	2.12	12.6
2015-16	22.40	3.38	17.8
2016-17	26.50	4.10	18.3
2017-18	30.88	4.38	16.5
2018-19	34.47	3.60	11.6

Assuming a growth rate of 10 per cent, total air passenger throughput in FY 22 is projected to be approximately 46 Crore.

(b) The expansion and development of infrastructure facilities at the airports is a continuous process and is undertaken keeping in view the operational requirements, safety of aircraft operations, demand from airlines etc. Airports Authority of India has embarked upon a Capital Expenditure plan of ₹ 25000/- Crore during next five years for development/upgradation/modernization of various airports in the country to meet the requirements of Air Traffic/passengers growth which includes expansion / modification of existing terminals, new terminals, expansion/ strengthening of existing runways, aprons, ANS works like control tower, technical block etc.

Replacement of P & W engines

325. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to states:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked all the airlines to replace Pratt and Whitney (P&W) engines within 90 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said directive was issued on account of shutting down of one of the two engines midflight; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?