

Year	Vacant Economy Class Seats
2016-17	4799537
2017-18	4603341
2018-19	6427285
2019-20 (as on 27.01.2020)	3831328

Mechanism to avoid flight delays

322. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts made during the last three years to improve the arrival and departure of flights on time;
- (b) whether any new mechanism has been adopted to avoid delay of flights;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures undertaken during the last three years to improve the passenger amenities at airports across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (d) Improvement in Air Navigation Services and Air Space Management to help airlines to operate flights on time and improvement in passenger amenities at airports are on going and continues process undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from time to time. AAI has constructed a modern, state-of-the art Air Traffic Flow Management Central Command Centre at Delhi which has become operational from 22.06.2019. The central command centre functions as the nodal point for nationwide Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) monitoring and managing air traffic demand congestion at major airports and airspace across the country. ATFM improves predictability of flight operations and thereby helps airlines to operate flights on time as far as practicable. Besides that, AAI has taken various other initiatives such as implementation of Airport Collaborative Decision Making system, upgradation of Instrument Landing Systems, installation of Advanced Surface Movement and Guidance Control System to improve on time operations by airlines. Apart from this, Airlines take various measures to improve the arrival and departure from airport on time which is monitored by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

To improve passengers amenities, AAI has provided wi-fi facility at 53 airports and has procured 30 battery operated Golf Cart Vehicles for various airports. To reduce the check-in time of passengers at the airports additional number of equipment such as Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE), Common User Self Service (CUSS) Kiosk, Scanners etc. have been provided at major 40 AAI airports.

Revival of Air India

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

(a) whether Government has once again taken the initiative for disinvestment of Air India, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has, in recent past, appointed any high level committee to suggest steps for revival, identified causes for loss of Air India, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of outstanding debt against Air India for the last three years and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) for inviting Expression of Interest for sale of 100% equity share capital of Air India Limited (AIL) including AIL's 100% shareholding in the Air India Express Limited (AIXL) and 50% shareholding in Air India Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) has been issued by Government of India on 27.01.2020 and is available on the website of Ministry of Civil Aviation (<https://www.civilaviation.gov.in>).

(b) NITI Aayog in its recommendations, on Strategic Disinvestment of the Central Public Sector Enterprises in May, 2017 had given the rationale for the disinvestment of Air India and referred to the fragile finances of the company, among various other reasons as Air India had been incurring continuous losses and had huge accumulated debt. Further, NITI Aayog in its report on Air India had stated that further financial support in a mature and competitive aviation market would not be the best use of scarce financial resources of the Government.

In order to effectively prepare Air India for disinvestment, a meeting was held on 07.09.2019 under the Chairpersonship of the then Finance Minister wherein the plan to