

2. Operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) flights were allowed without the above-mentioned restrictions.
3. Exclusive air-links or Air Bubbles have been established with countries which include Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Qatar, Maldives, UAE, UK and USA. These are temporary arrangements aimed at restarting international passenger services while regular international flights remain suspended due to COVID-19.
4. Promoted private investments in existing and new Airports through the PPP route.
5. Regularly engaged with foreign aircraft lessors and financiers to ensure that there were no premature withdrawals of leased aircraft from Indian carriers.
6. Adequate care taken to ensure that cargo terminals at all major airports were operational, whenever required.
7. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission, GST on Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) has been reduced to 5% and contracting of work to Indian MROs incentivized with zero-rated GST from 01 Apr 2020.
8. Encouraging Indian carriers to increase their share in international air cargo traffic.
9. Route rationalisation in the Indian airspace in coordination with India Air Force for efficient airspace management, shorter routes and reduced fuel burn.

(f) For international travel, exclusive air links or "Air Bubbles" have been established with Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Qatar, Maldives United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom (UK) and The United States of America (USA). These are temporary arrangements aimed at restarting passenger services while regular flights remain suspended.

#### **Vande Bharat Mission**

322. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Vande Bharat Mission undertaken by Air India;

- (b) the number of Indians Air India has been able to bring back under Vande Bharat Mission and lift foreigners from India to their respective countries;
- (c) the revenue that Air India has generated through this Mission;
- (d) whether it is a fact that social distancing has not been followed in Vande Bharat flights; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Vande Bharat Mission consists of special repatriation flights operated by Indian carriers and chartered flights operated by both Indian and foreign carriers. As on 31.08.2020, the total number of inbound and outbound special repatriation flights undertaken by the Air India group was 4505. Out of a total of about 11 lakh Indian nationals repatriated till 31.08.2020, about 4 lakh passengers were carried by Air India group into India. In addition, Air India group also carried about 1.9 lakh outbound passengers (including foreigners) to foreign destinations from India.

(c) The revenue generated by Air India group from Vande Bharat flights upto 31.08.2020 is ₹ 2556.60 crore.

(d) and (e) Air India/Air India Express have followed all guidelines issued by Government of India in all passenger service processes like Aarogya Setu check, body temperature scanning, social distancing in check-in, boarding, de-boarding, baggage delivery etc. Air India/Air India Express have also provided mask, visor and sanitizer to all its passengers and PPE kit to middle seat passengers.

#### **Air India plane crash at Kozhikode, Kerala**

323. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of passengers and crew died and injured in the aircraft crash involving Air India recently at Kozhikode;
- (b) whether the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder were recovered from the crash site, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been ordered, if so, the details thereof;