

- (vii) Instructions have been issued for the Pilot Monitoring to identify the subtle incapacitation of the Pilot flying and procedure for taking over of the flight controls.
- (viii) For enhancing the operational safety, instructions have been issued for encouraging crew to go-around if for any reason, the approach is unestablished and same is non-punitive.
- (ix) Instructions have been issued for all the airline operators to establish the tail wind and cross wind limitations based on the aircraft manufacturer guidance taking into consideration the runway surface conditions and weather conditions.

Data on evacuation under Vande Bharat Mission

324. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons who have been evacuated under Vande Bharat Mission; and
- (b) whether Government has any data regarding the number of persons still to be evacuated and till when, the Vande Bharat flight to be continued?

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 per information provided by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), till 31.08.2020, more than 11 lakh Indians (excluding land border crossings) have returned to India under the Vande Bharat Mission.

The number of persons awaiting repatriation is dynamic and the number of special repatriation flights is planned accordingly. As India enters into Air Bubble arrangements with different countries, the Vande Bharat Mission gets subsumed into this new arrangement.

Funds sought by airline operators

325. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the losses accrued by the Civil Aviation sector in the country due to the imposition of the lockdown leading to no flight operations and the details thereof;

(b) whether airline operators have sought relief funds from Government and if so, the details of incentives to be provided and if not, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has assessed the possibility of airlines not being able to continue operations due to sustained losses and the impact on the sector and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Based on the information received from the stakeholders, the losses accrued by the major components of the civil aviation sector are as under:—

1. There have been regulatory restrictions on flight operations in domestic and international sectors leading to severe curtailment in operations and sub-optimal aircraft utilisation.
2. The domestic traffic has reduced from 5,85,30,038 during March-July 2019 to 1,20,84,952 during March-July 2020.
3. The international traffic has reduced from 93,45,469 during March-July in 2019 to 11,55,590 during March-July 2020.
4. The revenue of Indian carriers has reduced from INR 25,517 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 3,651 crore during April-June 2020.
5. The revenue of airport operators has reduced from INR 5,745 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 894 crore during April-June 2020.
6. In respect of Air India, the total revenue has reduced from INR 7,066 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 1,531 crore during April-June 2020.
7. The employment at airlines has reduced from 74,887 as on 31 March 2020 to 69,589 as on 31 Jul 2020.
8. The employment at airports has reduced from 67,760 as on 31 March 2020 to 64,514 as on 31 Jul 2020.
9. The employment at ground handling agencies has reduced from 37,720 as on 31 March 2020 to 29,254 as on 31 Jul 2020.
10. The employment at cargo operators has reduced from 9,555 as on 31 March 2020 to 8,538 as on 31 Jul 2020.

(b) and (c) 1. Relief sought by the airline operators to mitigate the hardship faced by them, *inter-alia*, are as under:—

- (i) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to be brought under GST.
- (ii) Excise duty on ATF to be reduced from 11% to 0%.
- (iii) ATF price to be set every fortnight instead of on a monthly basis.
- (iv) Government to facilitate an additional unsecured credit of 60 days of consumption of ATF by the oil marketing companies.
- (v) Deferment of tax and other statutory dues for a period of six months.
- (vi) Lending to ground handlers, airlines and MROs by banks and other Financial Institutions to be treated as priority sector lending.
- (vii) Government may facilitate negotiation with lessors in order to persuade them to ease the lease terms.
- (viii) An interest free line of credit to be set up for the aviation sector of at least USD 1.5 billion.
- (ix) Banks and Financial Institutions may be asked to defer repayment of loans to aviation industry by six months and should not be treated as Non Performing Assets (NPA).
- (x) Leave Travel Concession (LTC) for Government and Public Sector Employees to be permitted on private carriers.

2. Some of the measures taken to support the aviation sector are as under:—

- (i) Due to COVID-19 pandemic, domestic air services have been restarted in a calibrated manner. Initially only one third (33%) of the summer schedule 2020 was allowed to be operated which was subsequently increased to 45% on 26 Jun 2020 and then to 60% on 02 Sep 2020.
- (ii) Operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) flights were allowed without the above-mentioned restrictions.
- (iii) 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.

- (iv) Promoted private investments in existing and new Airports through the PPP route.
- (v) Regularly engaged with foreign aircraft lessors and financiers to ensure that there were no premature withdrawals of leased aircraft from Indian carriers.
- (vi) Adequate care taken to ensure that cargo terminals at all major airports were operational, whenever required.
- (vii) Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission, GST on Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) has been reduced to 5% and contracting of work to Indian MROs incentivised with zero-rated GST from 01 Apr 2020.
- (viii) Encouraging Indian carriers to increase their share in international air cargo traffic.
- (ix) Route rationalisation in the Indian airspace in coordination with Indian Air Force for efficient airspace management, shorter routes and reduced fuel burn.

Social distancing norms

326. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of social distancing and other safety norms prescribed by Government to airline operators;
- (b) whether airlines have implemented social distancing norms inside aircraft and the details thereof;
- (c) whether complaints have been received that airlines have not followed social distancing norms inside aircraft and the details and penalties imposed thereon; and
- (d) whether Government has capped operations for airlines and the details of losses accrued by the airlines for the same and whether Government has also capped the fares for passengers and the details thereof?