

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 824
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th July 2015)

DREAMLINER AIRCRAFTS

824. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA
SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Air India has procured and operating Dreamliner aircrafts, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether manufacturer has claimed certain qualities of the said aircraft at the time of negotiations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which such claims have been found true by the Air India in the said aircraft; and
- (d) the details of action taken against the manufacturer in case of non-fulfilment of such claims so far?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) : Air India had ordered 27 B787 Dreamliner aircraft from Boeing. Out of these 27 B787 aircraft, 21 aircraft have already been delivered and are in commercial use by Air India.

(b) to (d) : When the Dreamliner was contracted, it was claimed by Boeing that the Dreamliner aircraft would result in fuel efficiencies which would be better than its competitor aircraft. However, due to certain structural modifications carried out by Boeing on the aircraft, the weight of the aircraft is much higher than was originally conceptualised by Boeing. This has resulted in a gap in fuel efficiencies from what was contemplated at the time of inception and induction of the aircraft. An Empowered Group of Officers has been constituted under Ministry of Civil Aviation to further negotiate in good

faith the issue of slippage in performance guarantee with Boeing after proper evaluation of the B787 aircraft performance.

Six B787 Dreamliner aircraft of Air India were grounded from 17th January, 2013 after a directive was received from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), based on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), USA, Emergency Airworthiness Directive (EAD) dated 16th January, 2013, requiring all B787 operators to temporarily ground the aircraft, subsequent to fire incident reported on aircraft operated by JAL (Japan Airlines Ltd.) and ANA (All Nippon Airways) caused by malfunctioning of Lithium-ion battery. After completion of modification work on these aircraft by Boeing Team, the commercial flight operations on the B787 aircraft resumed in mid May, 2013, after DGCA clearance. For prolonged grounding of Dreamliners, Air India has received compensation from Boeing on mutually accepted terms.
