

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1257
(To be answered on the 9th February 2017)**

OPERATION OF AIR INDIA EXPRESS FLIGHTS

1257. DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of domestic and international flights operated by Air India Express especially to USA;**
- (b) whether operational cost of flights on some of the routes is too high;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and losses incurred by Air India Express on such routes during the last three years, year-wise; and**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the profit of Air India Express?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

-
- (a): Air India (AI) Express does not have any operations to USA. The details of domestic and international operations of AI Express are attached as Annexure I.**
 - (b): The unit cost of operation of all the flights operated by AI Express are more or less the same with none being too high.**
 - (c): In the past 3 years, the details of the routes that did not meet operating cost are as below :-**

FY 2013-14

- 1. Chennai - Kuala Lumpur - Chennai**
- 2. Lucknow - Dubai - Lucknow**
- 3. Trivandrum - Sharjah - Trivandrum**

4. Trivandrum - Dubai - Trivandrum
5. Kozhikode - Kuwait - Kozhikode
6. Chennai - Trichy - Singapore vv
7. Kochi - Mangalore - Kuwait vv
8. Chennai - Colombo-Chennai

2

FY 2014-15

Based on the details of loss making routes in 2013-14, following corrective actions had been taken :-

1. Chennai - Colombo - Chennai flight was withdrawn
2. Kochi - Mangalore - Kuwait vv flight was restructured to operate thrice weekly Mangalore - Bahrain - Kuwait-Mangalore. Kochi passengers were given a suitable connection over Kozhikode.

As a result, all the flights met the operating cost and were profitable.

FY 2015-16

All the flights were profitable except Chennai - Kuala Lumpur - Chennai. The main reason was due to low yields as the fares were very low to meet the competitive pressure. The route continued to make losses in FY 2016-17 as well. Hence, effective from 15th Feb 2017, the flight has been withdrawn.

(d): The steps taken to enhance AI Express profits are as below :-

- i) The aircraft utilization has been increased from 8.5 hrs three years ago to 12.5 hrs per day per aircraft, which is comparable to the best in the industry.
- ii) The productivity / utilization of cabin crew and cockpit crew over the past 3 years has been increased and is comparable to the best in the industry.
- iii) The Schedule Reliability has been increased to the level of 99.9%. The On Time Performance has been increased to the level of around 80-85%.
- iv) With the focussed pricing and inventory management, the operating revenue has increased from 2364 Cr in 2013-14 to 2916 Cr. in 2015-16. The revenue increase of 23% is achieved with a reduced fleet of 17 aircraft in 2015-16, whereas in 2013-14 the aircraft fleet strength was 21.

3

ANNEXURE-I

AIR INDIA EXPRESS OPERATIONS		
Destination	Route	Freq./ wk
DUBAI	Kozhikode - Dubai vv	14
	Kochi - Dubai vv	7
	Thiruvananthapuram -Dubai vv	6
	Mangalore -Dubai vv	14
	Trichy -Dubai vv	7
	Pune -Dubai vv	3
	Amritsar -Dubai vv	7
	Lucknow - Dubai vv	7
	Jaipur - Dubai vv	4
	Mumbai - Dubai vv	7
	Delhi - Dubai vv	7
	TOTAL	83
SHARJAH	Kozhikode - Sharjah vv	7
	Kochi-Sharjah vv	7
	Thiruvananthapuram-Sharjah vv	3
	Mumbai-Sharjah vv	7
	Trichy - Sharjah vv	7
	Chandigarh-Sharjah vv	3
	Varanasi-Sharjah vv	7
	TOTAL	41
ABU DHABI	Kozhikode-Abu Dhabi vv	7
	Kochi-Abu Dhabi vv	7
	Thiruvananthapuram-Abu Dhabi vv	7
	Mangalore-Abu Dhabi vv	4
	Delhi-Abu Dhabi vv	7
	TOTAL	32
MUSCAT	Kozhikode-Muscat vv	7
	Thiruvananthapuram-Muscat vv	5
	Kochi-Muscat vv	6
	Mangalore-Muscat vv	3
	TOTAL	21
SALALAH	Kozhikode-Salalah-Kozhikode	1
	Kochi-Thiruvananthapuram-Salalah-Kochi-Thiruvananthapuram	1
	TOTAL	2
AL AIN/RAS AL KHAIMAH	Kozhikode-Al Ain-Ras Al Khaimah-Kozhikode	2
	Kozhikode-Ras Al Khaimah-Al Ain-Kozhikode	2
	TOTAL	4

4

BAHRAIN	Kochi-Kozhikode-Bahrain vv	7
	TOTAL	7
BAHRAIN/KUWAIT	Mangalore-Bahrain-Kuwait-Mangalore	3
	TOTAL	3
DOHA	Mumbai-Doha vv	4
	Mangalore-Doha vv	3
	Thiruvananthapuram-Kozhikode-Doha vv	7
	TOTAL	14
KUALA LUMPUR	Chennai - Kuala Lumpur	4
SINGAPORE	Trichy-Singapore vv	7
	Chennai-Singapore vv	7
	Kolkatta - Singapore vv	4
	TOTAL	18
DAMMAM	Kozhikode-Dammam vv	4
	Mangalore-Dammam vv	3
	TOTAL	7
KUWAIT	Kozhikode-Kuwait vv	5
	TOTAL	5
DHAKA	Delhi-Dhaka vv	4
	Kolkatta - Dhaka vv	4
	TOTAL	8
RIYADH	Kozhikode-Riyadh vv	5
	TOTAL	5
SUB TOTAL (INTERNATIONAL)		254
Destination	Route	Freq./ wk
	Chennai-Thiruvananthapuram vv	1
	Trichy - Thiruvananthapuram	1
SUB TOTAL (DOMESTIC)		2
GRAND TOTAL		256

Withdrawn Eff. 15th Feb 2017

Eff. 15 Feb 2017

Eff. 15 Feb 2017