

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 178
(To be answered on the 2nd February 2017)**

EXPANSION OF AIR INDIA FLEET

178. **SHRI C.R. PATIL
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government recently has taken a decision to include 35 new aircrafts in the fleet of Air India and to revive the same, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Air India proposes to increase its fleet of aircraft in the near future, if so, the details thereof, including the estimated cost of purchase and the details of aircraft purchased by Air India during the last three years along with the expenditure made for the same;
- (c) the existing strength of aircraft with Air India and the number of them are under maintenance, category-wise;
- (d) the number of aircraft are on lease/ contract basis and whether maintenance cost is to be borne by the lessor and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Air India aircraft are older in comparison to foreign airlines and private domestic airlines, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for the replacement of these aircraft?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) Air India (AI) has signed agreements for dry lease of 14 A320 NEO aircraft in March, 2016, 3 A320 NEO aircraft in October, 2016 and 5 A320 NEO in November, 2016. These 22 aircraft will be delivered between February, 2017 and February, 2019.

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AI has taken delivery of 104 aircraft out of the combined total 111 aircraft ordered by AI, erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India Charters Ltd. in 2005. The details of the same are as follows:

- i. AI's 50 long range aircraft - 8 B777-200LR + 15 B777-300ER + 27 B787
- ii. Erstwhile Indian Airlines - 43 A320 family aircraft - 19 A319 + 4 A320 + 20 A321
- iii. Air India Charters Ltd. - 18 B737s

(b) AI has floated tender for induction of 7 A320 NEO aircraft on dry lease basis. The cost of purchase of aircraft by AI during the last 3 years and the expenditure is as follows:

2013-14 Rs. 4,375.69 crores

2014-15 Rs. 3,822.84 crores

2015-16 Rs. 1,525.59 crores

(c) The details of AI's current fleet strength as on January 2017 is given in Annexure-I. As on 30.01.2017, there are 04 (four) Airbus A320, 01 (one) Airbus A319, 03 (three) B787, 02 (two) B777 and 01 (one) B747 are under maintenance apart from the aircraft under scheduled maintenance.

(d) The details of aircraft on dry lease and sale & lease back is given at Annexure-I. Presently, 05 A320 and 03 A319 aircraft are inducted on dry lease basis. In the dry lease, all the maintenance costs are borne by the lessee and not lessor. This is a standard practice world-over.

(e) No, Madam. Most of the Air India aircraft are new. However, some of AI's A320 aircraft are more than 20 years of age. The B747-400s are also more than 20 years old. The average age of the AI fleet is given in Annexure II.

AI is progressively phasing out the classic old A320 aircraft simultaneous to new A320 NEO aircraft induction.

AI's B747-400 aircraft are being operated in the AI fleet primarily to fulfill Government's requirement for VVIP aircraft operations. Replacement of these aircraft will be based on the finalization of alternate new aircraft for the same.

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Air India Limited Fleet (As on 30JAN2017)

Aircraft type	Owned	Leased Aircraft		Total
		Sale & Lease Back	Dry Lease	
Operational Fleet				
Wide Body				
B777-200LR	3	-	-	3
B777-300ER	12	-	-	12
B747-400	3	2	-	5
B787-800	2	21	-	23
Wide Body Total	20	23	-	43
Narrow Body				
A320	19		5	24
A319	19	0	3	22
A321	20	0	0	20
Narrow Body Total	58	0	8	66
Air India Express				
B737-800	17	0	6	23
Alliance Air				
CRJ-700	0	0	3	3
ATR42	0	0	3	3
ATR72	0	0	8	8
Alliance Air Total	0	0	14	14
Total Operational Fleet	95	23	28	146

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Annexure II

OPERATING PASSENGER FLEET AND AVERAGE AGE

AIRCRAFT TYPE	TOTAL FLEET (INCL LEASED)	As on 30-Jan-17 AVG. AGE(Yrs.)
Wide Body		
B777-200LR	3	7.5
B777-300ER	12	7.9
B787-800	23	2.9
B747-400	5	21.9
All Wide Body	43	6.8
Narrow Body		
A-321	20	8.2
A320	24	17.2
A319	22	8.6
All Narrow Body	66	11.6
Air India	109	9.7