

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4312
(To be answered on the 18th July 2019)**

REPLACEMENT OF OLD AIRCRAFTS

4312. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the time-limit fixed for replacing the old aircrafts in a phased manner;
- (b) whether several old aircrafts of various airlines are still in operation;
- (c) if so, the aircraft and company-wise details thereof with regard to Air India and private airlines;
- (d) whether Air India proposes to bring new aircrafts in place of the old ones;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (c): The life of an aircraft is defined in terms of Design Service Goal (DSG). The operator has to operate its aircraft within the stipulated DSG. However, there is a mechanism to increase the life of an aircraft beyond DSG known as Extended Service Goal (ESG). Relevant detailed Service Bulletins (SBs)/inspections and processes are provided by the manufacturer for enhancement of life, but approval of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), (local airworthiness authority) is required for ESG operation.

Aircraft are considered airworthy provided the maintenance is as per approved schedule program and all mandatory modifications stipulated by the DGCA as well as the regulatory authorities of the aircraft manufacturing countries. The Economic Design Goal for every type of aircraft is decided by the manufacturers/ regulatory authorities of the State of manufacturers.

In addition to above, to keep aircraft in airworthy condition, the operators are required to carry out life development modifications/ airworthiness inspections/ airworthiness directives etc., as recommended by the manufacturers/regulatory authorities of the State of manufacturers. The

above inspections are made mandatory by the DGCA. No aircraft are allowed in service without these inspections/certifications.

The average age of the fleets and the fleet strength of various carriers in India is as under:-

Airlines	Fleet Strength	Average Age of Aircraft(in years)
Air India & its subsidiaries	173	7.0
Spicejet Ltd.	110	8.4
Indigo	237	5.8
Go Air	51	3.6
Vistara	29	3.6

(d): All the aircraft in Air India fleet are maintained to the highest airworthiness standards and meet all the requirements of the regulatory authorities and are maintained & flown till the Design Service Goal life of the aircraft. At present, Air India has no immediate plans to procure/bring new aircraft in place of old aircraft.

(e) & (f): Does not arise in view of (d) above.
