

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 730
(To be answered on the 17th September 2020)**

VANDE BHARAT MISSION DURING COVID-19

730. **DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO
SHRI BHOLA SINGH
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has launched its repatriation drive, Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including expenditure incurred on VBM till date along with the number of persons brought back, phase and country-wise;
- (c) whether the Civil Aviation industry has been worst affected by lockdown due to COVID-19 Pandemic and if so, the details thereof including the Government's reaction thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has planned to provide any stimulus package to provide relief to Civil Aviation sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to revive Civil Aviation Industry in the country?

ANSWER

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

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) Yes Sir

(b)

i. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has not incurred any expenditure on the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) till date. The VBM passengers paid for their travel.

ii. As per the information received from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), more than 11 lakh Indians (excluding land border crossings) have

returned to India till 31.08.2020, under VBM.

iii. The phase wise and country wise details of the persons brought back by Air India and Air India Express under VBM are attached herewith as Annexure.

(c), (d) and (e) 1. Based on the information received from the stakeholders, the impact of COVID-19 on the civil aviation sector are as under:

i. There have been regulatory restrictions on flight operations in domestic and international sectors leading to severe curtailment in operations and sub-optimal aircraft utilisation.

ii. The domestic traffic has reduced from 58,530,038 during March-July 2019 to 12,084,952 during March-July 2020.

iii. The international traffic has reduced from 9,345,469 during March-July in 2019 to 1,155,590 during March-July 2020.

iv. 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.

v. The revenue of airport operators has reduced from INR 5,745 crore during April-June 2019 to INR 894 crore during April-June 2020.

vi. 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.

vii. The employment at airlines has reduced from 74,887 as on 31 March 2020 to 69,589 as on 31 July 2020.

viii. The employment at airports has reduced from 67,760 as on 31 March 2020 to 64,514 as on 31 July 2020.

ix. The employment at ground handling agencies has reduced from 37,720 as on 31 March 2020 to 29,254 as on 31 July 2020.

x. The employment at cargo operators has reduced from 9,555 as on 31 March 2020 to 8,538 as on 31 July 2020.

2. Efforts have been made to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the aviation sector. Some of the measures taken to support the aviation sector include, inter-alia:

i. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, domestic air services have been restarted in a calibrated manner. Initially one third (33%) of the summer schedule 2020 was allowed to be operated which was subsequently increased to 45% on 26 June 2020 and then to 60% on 02 September 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 Public Private Partnership (PPP) route.

v. Adequate care taken to ensure that cargo terminals at all major airports

were operational, whenever required.

vi. GST rate reduced to 5% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services.

vii. Encouraging Indian carriers to increase their share in International air cargo traffic.

viii. Route rationalisation in the Indian airspace in coordination with Indian Air Force for efficient airspace management, shorter routes and reduced fuel burn.

**Annexure in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 730
regarding Vande Bharat Mission**

Country wise number of repatriated Indians till 31 Aug 2020		
S. No.	COUNTRY	NO. OF REPATRIATED INDIANS
1.	AFGHANISTAN	902
2.	ALGERIA	649
3.	ANGOLA	531
4.	ARMENIA	720
5.	AUSTRALIA	7,110
6.	AZERBAIJAN	186
7.	BAHRAIN	22,769
8.	BANGLADESH	5,019
9.	BARBADOS	115
10.	BELARUS	225
11.	BELGIUM	287
12.	BHUTAN	85
13.	BRAZIL	510
14.	BRUNEI	272
15.	BULGARIA	499
16.	CAMBODIA	289
17.	CANADA	11,384
18.	CHINA	513
19.	DENMARK	52
20.	DJIBOUTI	233
21.	EGYPT	1,890
22.	ETHIOPIA	6,101
23.	FIJI	5
24.	FINLAND	219
25.	FRANCE	12,385
26.	GEORGIA	862
27.	GERMANY	14,108
28.	GHANA	302
29.	GREECE	163
30.	HONG KONG	762
31.	INDONESIA	2,585
32.	IRAN	3,113
33.	IRAQ	6,661
34.	IRELAND	485
35.	ISRAEL	438
36.	ITALY	2,957
37.	JAPAN	2,699
38.	JORDAN	400

Country wise number of repatriated Indians till 31 Aug 2020

S. No.	COUNTRY	NO. OF REPATRIATED INDIANS
39.	KAZAKHSTAN	3,685
40.	KENYA	1,124
41.	KUWAIT	84,153
42.	KYRGYZSTAN	11,142
43.	LAOS	427
44.	LATVIA	5
45.	LEBANON	893
46.	MADAGASCAR	84
47.	MALAYSIA	11,464
48.	MALDIVES	6,747
49.	MALTA	102
50.	MAURITIUS	900
51.	MEXICO	228
52.	MOLDOVA	243
53.	MONGOLIA	17
54.	MYANMAR	659
55.	NEPAL	332
56.	NETHERLANDS	3,330
57.	NEW ZEALAND	1,835
58.	NIGERIA	4,398
59.	NORWAY	267
60.	OMAN	75,367
61.	PAKISTAN	671
62.	PHILIPPINES	7,017
63.	POLAND	336
64.	PORTUGAL	54
65.	QATAR	95,652
66.	ROMANIA	8
67.	RUSSIA	8,471
68.	SAUDI ARABIA	138,459
69.	SCOTLAND	35
70.	SEYCHELLES	864
71.	SINGAPORE	20,195
72.	SOUTH AFRICA	1,161
73.	SOUTH KOREA	1,081
74.	SPAIN	1,117
75.	SRI LANKA	7,208
76.	SUDAN	125
77.	SWEDEN	1,270
78.	SWITZERLAND	7
79.	SYRIA	12

Country wise number of repatriated Indians till 31 Aug 2020		
S. No.	COUNTRY	NO. OF REPATRIATED INDIANS
80.	TAIWAN	108
81.	TAJIKISTAN	1,374
82.	TANZANIA	1,640
83.	THAILAND	1,824
84.	TUNISIA	25
85.	TURKEY	1,102
86.	TURKMENISTAN	38
87.	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	394,950
88.	UNITED KINGDOM	32,645
89.	UKRAINE	8,205
90.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	66,692
91.	UZBEKISTAN	636
92.	VIETNAM	648
93.	YEMEN	76
94.	ZIMBABWE	5
95.	OTHERS	1,299

Phase-wise details for Air India Group till 31 Aug 2020	
Phase 1	12,708
Phase 2	59,576
Phase 3	94,539
Phase 4	138,261
Phase 5	142,318
Total	447,402