

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:208
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
FREE CONCESSIONAL AIR TICKETS
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Management of Indian Airlines is causing heavy losses to the airlines by providing free/concessional air tickets for national/ international destinations to their friends and relatives in the name of public relations;
- (b) whether Indian Airlines is also providing free air tickets to those persons whose properties are being used by Indian Airlines as office's holiday homes, godowns;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such tickets issued during each of the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government propose to put a check on this practice; and
- (e) if so, the details of the action proposed to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a),(b),(c),(d) and (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d),(e),(f) and(g) OF LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 208 FOR 4.8.2003 REGARDING FREE/CONCESSIONAL AIR TICKETS

(a): No, Sir. As per the Industry practice, free tickets are normally issued by Indian Airlines in its commercial interests to tour promoters, travel writers, media persons and important commercial contacts, to encourage and promote travel on its flights, and to help in image building of the company.

Free tickets generally cost the airlines only the incremental cost i.e. the cost of on board meal services etc., as the airline usually operates with seat occupancy of around 60% and there are unutilized seats remaining. The travel against free tickets in most cases is, therefore, not at the cost of fare paying passengers. There is virtually no revenue implication.

(b) and (c): Yes, Sir. The number of tickets issued by Indian Airlines to such persons during the last 3 years is as follows:

Year	No. of free tickets issued
2000-01	3
2001-02	1
2002-03	7 (including 1 child and 1 infant ticket)

(d) and (e): It has been decided by Indian Airlines to stop such arrangements and restrict issuing free tickets only for normal sales promotion and publicity.