

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2473  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005  
CATEGORY- II ROUTES  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that with the increased demand in aviation sector, the category-II routes are no longer loss making;
- (b) if so, the details of the category-II routes which have recovered from loss making;
- (c) whether North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands routes have become profit making;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if no, the strategy adopted by the Government to make these routes profit making;
- (f) whether the Government has given any subsidy to fly on these routes; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to adopt the same strategy on other category-II Routes?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION ( SHRI PRAFUL PATEL )

(a),(b),(c) and (d) :- Indian Airlines operations on Cat.II routes continue to be loss making with the exception of services to/from Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(e),(f) and (g):- Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

North Eastern Council is providing Rs. 35.00 crores per annum for 5 years (Rs. 175.00 Crores) starting from 2002-03, to Alliance Air, for operation of ATR services to improve the air connectivity in the North Eastern Region. There is no proposal at present to extend this scheme to other Category-II routes.