

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2069
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006
HIGH CARGO RATES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cargo rates charged for agricultural products by the State owned airlines are quite high;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India propose to convert some of its existing fleet into cargo aircraft;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to make Government owned airlines more competitive to private airlines?

Answer

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

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): and (d): Indian Airlines propose to convert five Boeing 737-200 aircraft presently being operated by Alliance Air(a subsidiary of Indian Airlines) into cargo aircraft. Similarly, Air India also propose to convert its existing two A310-300 passenger aircraft into cargo aircraft by mid 2007.

(e): Both the Airlines constantly endeavor to take measures to improve their product and remain competitive with the private Airlines. Besides, both the airlines are in the process of acquiring modern aircraft in order to revamp their fleet. The Government encourages/reviews the airlines in their endeavour and has accorded approval for acquisition of new aircraft by both Government owned airlines.