

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1341
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
CARGO SERVICE
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce specialised freighters to carry cargo;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the destination between which the cargo service is proposed to be introduced?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has plans to convert five B-737 aircraft currently being operated by Alliance Air into freighter aircraft. These 5 aircraft are being considered for deployment under hub and spoke pattern with Nagpur as hub and Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai (Via Bangalore and Hyderabad) as originating stations. The timings of freighter operations will be in tune with the express industry market needs. Air India operates two B747-300 and one B747-400 Combi aircraft, each having 28 ton freighter capacity on India/ Bangkok/ Japan/ Bangkok / India (two times a week) and India / Japan / India (two times a week) and India / Frankfurt / Los Angeles / Frankfurt / India (three times a week). Air India is also planning to commence dedicated freighter operations from mid 2007 by converting two passenger A310 aircraft into freighters from M/s Eads, Dresden in Germany. It is estimated that each A310 aircraft will provide a cargo capacity of approximately 40 tons and Air India plans to deploy these freighter aircraft on India/Germany, India / Paris and India / Bangkok / Shanghai routes.