

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3501

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2014

AIR INDIA STATUS

Azad Shri Kirti (JHA);Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of employees working in Air India at present along with its employee- to-aircraft ratio in comparison to other airlines operating in the country;
- (b) whether Air India has any proposal to prune its staff strength through Voluntary Retirement Scheme and if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to have a full time Chairman and Managing Director of the airlines and if so, the details and present status thereof;
- (d) whether Air India has purchased a number of aircrafts at high price in the recent past and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Air India has sold or planning to sell these aircrafts to private airlines at very low price and if so, the reasons therefor along with the corrective action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri G.M. Siddeshwara)

- (a) : Total number of employees of Air India as on 30.06.2014 is 12529 [excluding two subsidiary companies i.e. Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) and Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL) which have been hived off].The aircraft to employee ratio in Air India is 1:130, which is comparable to some of the other airlines operating in the country.
- (b) : In accordance with the CCEA`s approval on the Turn Around Plan (TAP) / Financial Restructures Plan (FRP) of Air India, the Board of Directors of Air India in its meeting held on 3rd July, 2012 approved a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). Subsequently, it has been decided to drop the issue, in view of the reduction in the number of employees due to transfer of more than 8000 employees to two subsidiary companies namely AIESL and AIATSL and the large number of retirements due over the next 5 years. Further, the company already has a VRS in existence and any employee completing specified years of service can avail of the same. The matter has since been informed to the Cabinet Secretariat.
- (c) : A full time Chairman and Managing Director has already been appointed in Air India.
- (d) : No, Madam.
- (e): Does not arise in view of (d) above.