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Title: Need to improve the pathetic condition of Air India.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): Sir, I take this opportunity to invite your kind attention regarding the huge loss incurred to Air India due to the withdrawal and cancellation of its flights as well as frequent strikes of its employees.

It is pathetic to learn that Air India has been cancelling most of its highly profitable routes due to unknown reasons for the last two years. For instance, Indian Airlines' IC 997/998 flight between Cochin and Doha had in service of seven flights a week. Cancellation of this flight has added an annual loss of Rs. 100 crore.

Another matter of concern is the replacement of legacy carrier like Indian Airlines by low cost carrier like Air India Express. As a result, capacity and role of national carrier to transport travelers between the Gulf and India has been reduced to a great extent. Reducing the size of carrier substantially affects the profit and existence of Air India. Present trend of demand shows that there is a separate demand for legacy carrier like IC and low cost carrier like IX. The combination of IC-IX flights is able to capture high-end and low-end market in our aviation sector.

In addition to the withdrawal and cancellation of flights and frequent strikes called on by its employees has transformed Air India into a carrier of uncertainty. Such incidents detract traditional passengers from Air India and benefiting a host of private and international airlines.

Therefore, I request the Government to take urgent steps to salvage India's prestigious national air carrier.