

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to review the decision to divest Air India.

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SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): Air India has served the nation for decades and was always there for the service of the national call. If today it is in this financial situation it was not because of itself but successive governments that have shortchanged Air India and treated it like their private properties and at times private airlines were favoured. The government has recently proposed a strategic disinvestment of Air India and its 5 subsidiaries. Since 2015, Air India has shown healthy signs of revival, owing to the TP initiated in 2012. For the first time in 10 years, Air India reported an operating profit of 105 crores in 2015, and 205 crores in 2016. As the government operates BSNL, MTNL in communications and DD and AIR in broadcasting, it should have a national carrier too.

I urge the Government to reconsider the decision and to work on restructuring the debt of Air India.