



FROM AI 25 YEAR CLUB DESK



**FOUNDER PATRON :
BHARAT RATNA J. R. D. TATA**

CONDOLENCE

A bad chapter of cruel terrorist vengeance opened up on September 11th by the destruction of the World Trade Centre in New York killing more than 6000 human beings.. The Twenty Five Year Club condoles with the bereaved from all countries of the world, who have lost their near and dear ones in the holocaust. We are sure, that as a result of united action by all the civilised nations of the world, the above tragedy would be the last in history.

APPEAL

The average age of our Committee Members of the Air-India 25 year Club has crossed seventy and we have to have new Committee Members, to enable our activities to continue. We are in dire need of younger members, preferably less than 65 years old, to take care of the running of the Club. Members, especially living near the Santacruz Airport, are requested to meet our office bearers, so that we

can take further action in the matter.

We have written letters to all unions of Air-India, for their kind support for introduction of the Pension scheme, for employees, who retired before 1-4-94. Some unions have written to Air-India Management in this regard. We request all our retired employees, who retired prior to 1-4-1994, should write to their Unions/Guilds/Associations of which they were members while in service, insisting that the organisations should ask the Air-India Management to take immediate action to provide the pension or ex gratia benefit.

EX-GRATIA PENSION/RELIEF

1. Your Club had appealed, to the Shri. Sharad Yadav, the then Hon'ble Minister of Civil of Aviation/ Government of India, vide our letter dated July 17th 2001, to introduce the monthly Pension/relief amounting Rs. 1000/- pm, to surviving retirees, before the disinvestment is carried out in Air India. We also requested him, that after disinvestment is carried out in Air India, the Medical benefit and Travel facility providing air passages should be retained and continue to retirees of Air India.

2. We have addressed letter dated 20th August 2001, to the Shri. A.H.Jung, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, New Delhi and requested him to advise the

management of Air India, to implement the decision of Govt. of India to provide pension/ ex-gratia relief to surviving retirees of Air India, who retired on or before 31.3.1994 and who are not getting any pension benefits for their livelihood. We give below important para of our letter mentioned above.

" We hope, that the payment of Ex-gratia relief to the old and hard pressed surviving retirees would not be denied by our Ministry. The denial of Ex-gratia relief would amount to discrimination and contrary to norms of natural justice. To implement, the decision of Govt. of India to provide the Ex-gratia relief for livelihood to the one set of retirees of PSUS and not implementing the decision of Govt. of India for providing Ex-gratia Relief for livelihood in case of Air India retirees, who are not getting any pension benefits from Air India, despite being a PSU, would be unfair, unjust and against the principle of lawful justice"

3. Vide our letter dated September 3, 2001, we have congratulated the Shri. Syed Shahnawazji Hussain, our new Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation and wished him all success in his new and important assignment in Central Govt. Cabinet.. In regard to payment of pension benefits in Air India, we placed the following facts before him.

- (a) Retirees who are in age group of 58 to 65 years (Junior retirees - who retired - April 1994 to August 2001) are provided Monthly pension, under the scheme implemented in Air India.
- (b) Retirees who are in age group 66 to 85 years (Senior retirees - who retired - earlier to and including 1973 to March 1994) are excluded from the pension benefits till date.
- (c) Retirees who were not getting any pensionary benefits in banks, RBI, GIC, LIC and all major Port Trusts in India are being paid monthly Ex-gratia pension/relief effective 01.11.1997. As on date, the payment of ex-gratia pension/relief is more than Rs. 1000/- per month per retiree in the PSUS mentioned above. The payment of ex-gratia pension/relief to surviving retirees mentioned above is yet to be introduced in Air India. The matter is pending with Ministry and Air-India Management for their consideration. The financial liability is negligible, which works out to Rs. 1.80 crores per annum (which will get reduced with each passing day, as 1500 surviving retirees are in age group of 66 to 85 years).

4. We expressed our hope to **Shri. Shahnawaz Hussain, Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation** that he would give due priority to our request to provide economic relief for the livelihood of 1500 surviving retirees of Air India who are old, hard-pressed and are in age group of 66 to 85 years.

5) Our Club is awaiting for kind reply from our Management, Ministry and our Hon'ble Civil Aviation Minister, **Shri. Shahnawaz Hussain**.

6) We have forwarded copies of above mentioned letters to **Shri. J.N. Gogoi** Managing Director (Offg) Air-India and requested him for his kind support to the noble cause of providing financial relief to surviving retirees mentioned above.

In the year 1997 and thereafter we have appealed and written letters to successive Cabinet Ministers in the Government of India, for introduction of Pension Schemes to those of the employees, who retired before 31-3-94, namely, **Shri. P. Chidambaram**, Hon'ble Finance Minister, **Shri. C.M. Ibrahim** then the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation, **Shrimati. Jayanthi Natarajan** Hon'ble Minister of State for Civil Aviation, **Shri. Ananth Kumar**, the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation, **Shri. Yashwant Sinha** the Hon'ble Minister for Finance, and **Shri. Sharad Yadav**, the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation.

For the last three years we have been requesting the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Air-India Management to introduce the pension scheme or atleast the ex-gratia scheme to 1500 of our retired staff, who do not get either of the above benefits. We have not received any positive reply.

We had stated in our letters, that the employees, who retired after 1-4-94 to October 97, have been covered under the scheme and given Pensions, effective November 1997 and thereafter. All these retirees have paid, their contribution, namely 15 years contribution of the basic pay plus Dearness allowance with 12% compound interest thereon.

The employees, who have retired prior to 1-4-94 are prepared to pay similar contributions for getting the Pension. Copies of letters sent to above Hon'ble Ministers have been sent to the Air-India Management. However, our request has not been considered by the Government of India, and the Air-India Management till date.

Effective - October 1st, 2001
Air-India 25 Year Club
Office timing Office Timings
would be as follows:
MON - 10.30 Hrs. to 12.30 hrs.
WED - 10.30 Hrs to 12.30 hrs
FRI - 10.30 Hrs to 1230 hrs.
TELEPHONE: 6157777- EXT 5411

CLUB'S ASSISTANCE

Mr. G. Subbarayan - our Club's Treasurer - will be always available for any Assistance from Monday to Friday between office 1100 Hrs to 1300 hrs at J.R.D. Tata Memorial Trust, Operations HQ Ground Floor, (Right side of Main Door).

INFORMATION DESK

EMPLOYEES RELIEF FUND

Management receives from time to time representations from employees seeking financial assistance in extenuating circumstances relating to losses due to natural calamities or for expenditure not covered under the Contributory Medical Benefit Scheme (CMBS) in existence at the present time. We are pleased to inform that the Board has approved Management's proposal for revival of the Employees Relief Fund with a view to provide reasonable relief.

The Fund will be administered by a high level Committee appointed by the Management.

The guidelines prescribed for operating the Fund are as follows:-

- i) Relief would be restricted to a minimum of Rs. 50,000/- and to a maximum of Rs. 1,00,000/- keeping in view the actual expenditure involved and the financial status of the employee in each case.
- ii) Relief would be considered only in case of expenditure incurred in India.
- iii) Only those cases would be considered for relief where the employee concerned has not received financial assistance from any other sources whatsoever.
- iv) The relief would be granted to an employee/ his family on a one-time basis only, either in service or if retired.

Employees/retired employees who are desirous of having the above financial assistance may submit their claims for consideration to the Manager-CMBS Cell, Medical Services Department-Santacruz.

It may please be noted that only cases which are pending since January 1998 onwards will be taken up for consideration/disposal by the Management.

**Liberalisation under Employees Medical benefits Scheme (E.M.B.S.) and
Contributory Medical Benefits Scheme (C.M.B.S.)**

Sr. No. Description	E.M.B.S.	C.M.B.S.
1. Ayurvedic\Homeopathic\ Unani Systems	Rs.2,500/- per year per employee.	Rs.2,500/- per beneficiary Year per beneficiary within The overall ceiling of Rs.12000/-
2. Ante-natal treatment.	Not applicable	Medicines and investigations charges will now be reimbursed upto Rs.4,000/- within the overall ceiling of Rs. 12,000/- Revised ceiling also includes the cost of vitamins.
3. Psychiatric treatment	Not applicable	Charges for the counselling done by Clinical Psychologist as also the Charges for the psychological tests advised will be reimbursed at par with the consulting charges.
4. Cataract Surgery-Clubbing	Not applicable	Type 'A' or type B Clubbing facility facility for will be granted for the beneficiaries undergoing the said surgery for both the eyes in the same scheme year. The other conditions on clubbing unchanged. The details in respect of the clubbing facility for the said surgery will be available with all Medical Officers \ In-Charge of the CMBS cells.
5. Cost of spectacles every two years	Rs.1000/- every two years	Rs.1000/- per beneficiary member within the overall ceiling of Rs.12,000/-

2 The above will come into force with immediate effect.

**THE PRICE OF AIR-INDIA
(AS QUOTED IN THE
INDIAN EXPRESS
DATED 13TH AUGUST 2001)**

All our members, who would have put in decades of service in Air-India, are sad, that it has to be privatised, in order to show future growth. We are also surprised, that the Airline in which we served the best years of our lives has been valued at merely Rs. 815.14 (eight hundred and fifteen point one four) crores only, instead of the 12,000 crores, we expected. Anyhow, expert bankers have gone into the evaluation and it is their report that is reproduced down below.

" Let's begin with Air-India's sources of funds. With a Rs. 153.84 crore capital and reserve cum surplus of Rs. 1,156.49 crore Air-India's total fund of Rs. 1,310.33 crore, however, gets reduced to a paltry Rs. 420.61 crore owing to an accumulated loss of Rs. 889.72 crore. In addition, through hypothecation and mortgage and so on, the carrier's foreign currency 'secured loans' stand at Rs. 1,643.83 crore- 11 of Air-India's 23 aircraft are secured by first priority mortgage. Another Rs. 408.26 crore loans from banks are secured by all tangible, moveable property such as stock-in-trade and goods, present and future." Air India also has unsecured loans of another Rs. 1,196.77 crore.

The loans, naturally, have to be viewed in the context of Air-India's fixed asset. The carrier's 'gross block' air-frames are worth Rs.4,187.18 crore; (gross block implies the asset's price when bought). Its aero engines and power plants value Rs. 1,241.83 crore; airframe equipment-rotables Rs. 226.09 crore; buildings Rs. 114.99 crore, workshop equipment and instruments Rs. 148.34 crore; ramp equipment Rs. 134.82 crore.

There are also other assets like simulators, freehold and leasehold land, plant and machinery, furniture and fixtures, electrical fittings and installations, computer systems, office appliances and equipment and vehicles, total worth Rs. 317.10 crore. Thus, the good news is that the fixed assets of Air-India stand at Rs. 6,686.54 crore. The bad news, however, is that there's a huge depreciation of Rs. 3,043.15 crore on this. Once you deduct this from the fixed asset value, and then deduct the value

of loans, you arrive at a net worth or just Rs. 394.53 crore. Add to this, the value of Air-India's equity-cum-surplus that we first spoke of, and the worth rises to Rs. 815.14 crore.

Air-India also has a huge amount of Rs.686.11 crore blocked owing either to the inability or to the slothfulness of its sundry debtors to clear the bill. Amongst these are government as well as public sector understandings who have bought tickets but have not paid yet.

Also the figure up to March 31, 2000 shows that Rs. 107.48 crore has not yet been paid by Indian Airlines to Air-India. And, on the other side, Air-India is unable to pay Rs. 17 lakh to its sundry creditors like 'small scale industrial undertakings', and Rs. 845.93 crore to 'other than small scale industrial undertakings'. It also is unable to pay an amount of Rs. 13.48 crore to 'subsidiary companies' and has got stuck with an 'advances from customers' worth Rs.1,208.63 crore.

Clearly what the actual price for Air-India should be is the proverbial millions dollar question. But one thing stands out. It's a company with Rs. 3,248 crore of debt, and for the last five years, it has not borrowed anything for capital expansion, but just to meet its own working capital expenses. That tells its own story.

Mr. J.R.D. Tata and Ghosts!

Bharat Ratna Mr. J.R.D. Tata, our Founder-Patron while addressing the Silver Jubilee of the Tata Management Training Centre (TMTC) in Pune on 29th January 1992, stated "I am haunted by ghosts, ghosts of unfulfilled dreams and unrealised hopes". This led to the query, as to whether JRD had seen any ghosts in his life. "Yes" replied the doyen of Indian Industry. "But that was so many years ago" he told the audience. "It was soon after the Tatas purchased this bungalow (where the TMTC was housed). I was staying in the guest rooms. One night, my wife woke me up to ask me, why I was pushing her. Flabbergasted, I flatly denied having done this mischief. A little later, it was my turn to feel I was being pushed from my bed.

When I wanted to know from wife why she was pushing me now, she too expressed shock at the very suggestion. I think that it was the ghost of the

landlady from whom we had purchased the building"

The second time was soon after the air crash in the early 1960s, wherein Dr.Homi Bhabha died. Among other victims was a Franciscan monk, whose funeral was attended by Mr.Tata. "The next time, I went to Switzerland, I woke up in the night to find this monk standing at the foot of my bed" JRD recalled.

"Do you really believe in ghosts" JRD was asked by one of the audience. "Well, as I have met them, I have to believe in them" he replied.

"Did you come across any other ghosts after these two?" a lady journalist wanted to know. "No. Two were enough" pat came the reply. "But I can come back if you want to meet one..." The roar of laughter marked the end of the session.

DONATIONS

We thank our members for the following donations
(1-4-2001 to 31-8-2001)

Name	Rs.
Mrs. V. R. Patil	5000/-
Capt. S. G. Mavlik	1275/-
Mr. H. Sargon	1100/-
Mr. P. H. Dinshaw	1400/-
Mr. G. K. Maskell	640/-
Mr. G. N. Krishnan	530/-
Mr. A. R. C. Sekharan	501/-
Mr. G. S. Bajakal	501/-
Mr. M. H. Ginde	501/-
Mr. M. K. Venkataraman	300/-
Mr. Santos N. X.	300/-
Mr. P. Y. Bharti	300/-
Mr. M. C. Nagpal	275/-
Mr. G. D. Bhat	251/-
Mr. K. A. Raman	251/-
Mr. P. G. Karkanis	251/-
Mr. S. R. Shenai	251/-
Mr. S. Subramanian	251/-
Mr. K. H. Upadhyay	250/-
Mr. V. R. Kapur	200/-
Mr. N. M. Naik	200/-
Mr. R. A. Merchant	201/-

Total 14279/-

Donations less than Rs. 200/- 946/-

Grand Total 15,675/-

WE CONDOLE THE DEMISE OF

Mr. R. Vasanthan	Accounts
Mr. H. J. Padhye	Ex Director of Finance
Captain Lalkaka	Ex Director of Airsafety
Mr. Wilfred D'Lima	Operations
Mr. V. S. Bhagat	Ex-Director of Engineering
Mr. P. M. Narayanan	Engineering
Mr. T. R. Bhatsikar	Accounts
Mr. N. S. Hebbar	Engineering
Mr. M. M. Kharkar	Accounts

J.R.D. Tata Trust to mark Wright Anniversary

The Aeronautical Society of India is planning an air race in December 2003 to mark the 100th anniversary of the first powered flight by Orville and Wilbur Wright, on December 17th 1903 at Kitty Hawk in USA, as per Captain Russi Bunsha, Executive Trustee, JRD Tata Memorial Trust. "According to current plans, aircraft participating in the competition will take off from Bangalore and fly to different points in the country" The J.R.D. Tata Memorial Trust will award the winner. This announcement was made in a function on 28th July 2001, commemorating the 97th birth anniversary of JRD Tata.

RETIRED STAFF TO MAKE NOMINATION FOR LUMP SUN DEPOSIT FOR HOSPITAL

Medical Services Department Finds That as Retired staff have made no Nomination for return of lump Sun deposit taken for Hospital Satiom, it becomes difficult to Return the Amount to the Families on the demise of the Retired staff. As such please Ensure your legal Nomination is made today.

Air - India 25 Year Club

Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 2001

Previous Year 1999-2000 (Rs.)	<u>Liabilities</u>	Current Year 2000-2001 (Rs.)	Previous Year 1999-2000 (Rs.)	<u>Assets</u>	Current Year 2000-2001 (Rs.)
	<u>Funds</u>			<u>Furniture & Fixtures</u>	
2,65,500.28	Corpus Fund B.F.	3,02,632.54	359.00	Balance B/F	319.00
37,132.26	Add: current Year	17,792.00	40.00	Less: Depreciation	30.00
3,02,632.54			319.00		289.00
	Silver Line Corpus	50,000.00	40,000.00	<u>Fixed Deposits:</u>	
			40,000.00	With Shamrao Vithal Cop. Bank Ltd.	40,000.00
			70,000.00	With Bharat Co-op. Bank Ltd.	40,000.00
			40,000.00	With A. C. E. Bank Ltd.	70,000.00
			70,000.00	With Syndicate Bank	40,000.00
				With State Bank of Hyderabad	70,000.00
				With Saraswat Cop. Bank Ltd.	50,000.00
	<u>Sundries</u>			<u>Cash At Bank & Cash At Hand</u>	
1,000.00	Audit Fee	1000.00	31,336.53	Cash At Bank	58,609.53
350.00	Misc.		1,044.01	Cash At Hand	226.01
	Silver Line Exp.	15,000.00			
		16,000.00	5,258.00	<u>Sundry Debtors:</u>	
			6,000.00	F.D. Interest	7,300.00
			25.00	Donations	
				I.D. Card	
				Silver Line adv.	10,000.00
3,03,982.54		3,86,424.54	3,03,982.54		3,86,424.54

Vide our Audit report even date
FOR M.V.L. NARSIMHA RAO ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTS

SD/-
M.V.L. NARSIMHA RAO
PARTNER
MUMBAI
DATE: 30-9-2001

SD/-
M.V. RAMNATHKAR
PRESIDENT

SD/-
B. W. KALAN
HON. SECRETARY

SD/-
G. SUBBARAYAN
HON. TREASURER

Air - India 25 Year Club

Income & Expenditure as on 31st March 2001

1999-2000 Rs.	<u>Expenditure</u>	2000-2001 Rs.	1999-2000 Rs.	<u>Income</u>	2000-2001 Rs.
2,142.50	To Printing & Stationery	2,742.50	16,850.00	By Subscription	13,150.00
14,648.00	To Honorarium	15,800.00	53,493.00	By Donations	59,254.00
1,634.00	To Office Maintenance	10,000.00		<u>Receipts From:</u>	
117.00	To Conveyance	221.00		Identity Card	2,355.00
647.00	To Felicitation	40.00	2,880.00	<u>Sale of Dipectory</u>	60.00
398.50	To Welfare	445.00	160.00	Silver Line Adv.	20,000.00
824.00	To Postage	1,408.00	20,000.00	MISC.	350.00
744.00	To Bank Charges	749.00	646.00	<u>Interest From:</u>	
1,000.00	To Audit Fee	1,000.00	-	Savings Bank Account	2,012.00
240.00	To Misc. Expenses	187.00	2,415.00	Fixed Deposits	33,361.00
1,607.00	To Identity Cards Expenses	718.50	26,243.00	Silver Line Fund	6,503.00
40.00	To Depreciation	30.00	-		
38,983.00	To Silver Lines Expenses	30,912.00			
9,501.00	To Salaries	-			
13,028.24	To Pension Expenses	-			
-	To Legal Expenses	5,000.00			
37,132.26	To Excess of Income over Expenditure	67,792.00			
1,22,687.00		1,37,045.00	1,22,687.00		1,37,045.00

Vide our Audit report even date
FOR M.V.L. NARSIMHA RAO ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTS

SD/-
M.V.L. NARSIMHA RAO
PARTNER
MUMBAI
DATE: 30-9-2001

SD/-
M.V. RAMNATHKAR
PRESIDENT

SD/-
B. W. KALAN
HON. SECRETARY

SD/-
G. SUBBARAYAN
HON. TREASURER



*“One thing that we must never, never do is to accept
second best in any job that anybody else does for you.
Always aim at perfection and be satisfied only with excellence.”*

Jai Prakash

एअर-इंडिया  **AIR-INDIA**