

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4289
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
GROUNDING OF INDIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU; UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Airlines Flight No.540 from Delhi to Chennai was grounded on July 12,2000;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any responsibility has been fixed on the grounding of this flight;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for not fumigating the plane before embarking the passengers into the aircraft; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Flight IC 540 of 12.7.2000 was rescheduled to operate Delhi-Chennai at 2145 hours as against its STD of 1900 hours due to requirement of B4 type of aircraft at Chennai for Singapore operation with incoming IC 539 aircraft VT-EVD. The flight rolled out at 2145 hours with TNB 128 passengers. At 2155 hours, it was informed that a rat had been seen in the aircraft and therefore the Commander of the aircraft decided to return to the bay. The aircraft arrived at the bay and passengers were disembarked and brought to the Terminal Building.

(c) and (d): The matter was considered by Indian Airlines. It was not possible to fix individual responsibility for the grounding of the flight.

(e): Fumigation of the aircraft is not done prior to each flight. As soon as rat was observed on the aircraft, aircraft was fumigated prior to offering for the next flight to ensure safe operation of aircraft.

(f): The caterers have been advised to regularly fumigate the highlifts through which food items are transferred to the aircraft. Catering Section has been advised to exercise utmost vigil against the possible rodent menace.