

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4292
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
HAJ PILGRIMS
GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the contract for the ferrying of Haj pilgrims this year has also been awarded to the same private airlines which were engaged during the last 2-3 years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the aircraft of this airlines collided with each other twice at New Delhi and Jeddah;
- (d) if so, whether any investigation has been made in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether it delayed the flights for two days and led to hardships to the thousand of Haj pilgrims; and (g) if so, the steps suggested to be taken to avoid such incidents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) and (b):- Through a global tender evaluated by the Haj Charter Committee, the Contract for ferrying the Haj Pilgrims for Haj-2000 was awarded to M/s. Mido Aviation Group. Haj-1999 contract was also awarded to the same party. However, for Haj-1998 the contract was given to M/s. Air Charter World.

(c) :There was only one incident at Jeddah on 25.2.2000 when the wing tips of two B747 aircraft of Tower Air contacted each other when one of the aircraft was being moved by the airport handling staff.

There was another incident at Palam airport Delhi on 9.2.2000 where B747 aircraft N618FF of Tower Air hit the aerobridge.

(d) & (e) :-The investigation carried out by DGCA revealed that in the first incident:-

- (i) there was no marking on the ramp for parking the aircraft at ramp area number 11,
- (ii) Illumination of the ramp was not satisfactory,
- (iii) no one was present for marshalling the aircraft. The engineer who was taxiing the aircraft followed the yellow line of the taxi way, and
- (iv) no one was present to ensure wing tip clearance.

The second incident occurred due to the ignorance of the pilot on the PAPA AGNIS system (automarshalling system) provided on the aerobridge at palam airport.

(f) and (g) : Yes, Sir. The following steps have been taken to avoid such incident:-

- (i) All aircraft positioned at the ramp area 11, shall be towed in from taxiway to the parking spot alongwith persons walking along the wing tips to ensure appropriate clearance;
- (ii) The engineer involved in the taxiing incident would not be allowed to perform taxi duties until further investigations;
- (iii) The airlines have been advised not to roster the involved pilot for haj 2000 operations; and
- (iv) the operator was also advised to adequately brief all the pilots operating Haj 2000 flights on the availability of airport ground and facilities at various Indian airports.