

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:4  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2000  
HIJACKING OF INDIAN AIRLINES AEROPLANE FROM KATHMANDU  
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether an Indian Airlines plane was hijacked to Kandhar by terrorists on December 24-25, 1999 from Kathmandu, Nepal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the nationality and motive of hijackers, the damages caused to the passengers on board, and the loss of property suffered by the nation;
- (c) whether any Inquiry Committee has been set up by the Government to probe as to how the armed terrorists could board the plane;
- (d) if so, the details of the findings;
- (e) the concrete steps taken/being taken to check such incidents in the future and punish the hijackers as per the international law;
- (f) whether efforts are being made to get some agreements executed with the Government of Nepal for the security and safety of passengers of Indian aeroplanes; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) and (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (e), (f) & (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.4 FOR 24.2.2000 REGARDING HIJACKING OF INDIAN AIRLINES AEROPLANE FROM KATHMANDU

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Indian Airlines flight IC-814 was hijacked on 24.12.1999 en route from Kathmandu to Delhi when the plane was in Indian airspace. After intermediate halts at Amritsar and Lahore on 24.12.1999 and Al-Minad(UAE) on 25.12.1999, the aircraft finally landed at Kandahar on 25.12.1999. The aircraft continued to be parked at Kandahar Airport until the termination of the hijacking in the evening of 31.12.1999. All the passengers were released by the five hijackers found to be Pakistani nationals, in exchange for three terrorists who were under custody in the Indian prisons namely:

1. Maulana Masood Azhar
2. Ahmed Umar Sayed Sheikh
3. Mustaq Ahmed Zargar

One passenger Shri Rupen Katyal was killed and another passenger Shri Satnam Singh was seriously injured during the incident.

(c): No inquiry Committee has been set up by the Government. However, CBI would be looking into this aspect during their investigation.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The following measures have been taken for safety of air passengers:-

i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel in place of the State Police for security duties at the domestic operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara and Port Blair airports.

ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry into sterile area has been tightened. Ladder point secondary frisking has been introduced.

iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of Photo Identity Cards to restrict the number of pass-holders and banning of entry of the visitors upto 28.2.2000.

iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on some identified routes of Indian Airlines and Air India as an added safety precaution.

v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

vi) Replacement of old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines wherever necessary so as to ensure that atleast two X-Ray machines are available at every point.

vii) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up at the airports is being done in a phased manner.

The Government of India has formally asked Pakistan to hand over the hijackers to India for judicial process.

(f) & (g): His Majesty's Government of Nepal have assured the Government of India that they are taking the necessary action to strengthen security at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu and our decision on the resumption of Indian Airlines flights to Kathmandu would be taken keeping all these factors in mind.