

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:55
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010
DELAY CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS DUE TO FOG
Ramasubbu Shri S.;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of flights were delayed /cancelled due to fog and other technical reasons during the recent winter months especially at Indira Gandhi International Airport;
- (b) if so, the number of domestic and international flights delayed / cancelled during the last three years;
- (c) whether the airlines have incurred huge losses and the passengers put to inconvenience due to delay flights;
- (d) if so, the details of the losses during the last three years;
- (e) whether the Instrumental Landing Systems installed in some of the airports are not effective and some of the flights are forced to divert to various other destinations;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) of Lok Sabha Starred () Question No. 55 for 25.02.2010 regarding Delay/ Cancellation of Flights due to Fog.

(a) The flights get delayed and cancelled in the winter season at IGI Airport due to foggy conditions, when the visibility falls below the limit to which the flight crew and aircraft are compatible to operate. During this winter season, on a couple of occasions, the technical failure i.e., non-availability of Runway Visual Range (RVR) information contributed to delay and cancellation of flights.

(b), (c) & (d) During this current winter season due to low visibility in foggy conditions at IGI airport, 339 flights were cancelled and 201 flights were diverted. Information for last three years is being collected. Due to visibility falling below operating minima during fog, many a times flights get delayed/ cancelled with consequential effect. Some airlines do not maintain details related to delays due to landing restrictions` or late clearance for take off. It is, therefore, not possible to compute loss on this count.

(e) & (f) The instrument Landing Systems (ILS)are effective for permitting flight operations to the visibility conditions specified with the instrument capability. The flights are diverted, when the visibility falls below limit to which the ILS, flight crew and aircraft are compatible to operate. However, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued guidelines to minimize hardship to the passengers detailing the role of all agencies for passenger facilitations and management of flight operations during fog period at IGI airport in the cases of diversion of flights.