

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:693
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India and other private airlines have suspended the services of many of the aircraft bound for Iceland in the recent past due to volcanic eruption;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of flights cancelled and the amount of loss incurred to the airlines as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the airlines has made up the loss by operating more flights in the later period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) and (b): No Indian carrier operates flights to Iceland. However, volcanic eruptions there disrupted 87 flights of Indian carriers to overseas destinations, in addition to those of foreign carriers. Losses of Indian carriers are estimated to be Rs.150 crores.
- (c), (d) and (e): No, Sir. The backlog of passengers was cleared by the airlines by operating their regular flights using longer routes that avoided the ash cloud effect. However, extra expenditure was incurred flying longer routes.