

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:683

ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010

AIRPORTS WITHOUT LICENSES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Paswan Shri Kamlesh ;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of airports in the country are operating without obtaining licenses from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the delay in accomplishing licensing procedure while Aircraft Rules as amended in 2004 made licensing mandatory for aerodromes;
- (d) whether the Government has recently issued a notification serving all aerodromes to get a valid license from DGCA within a specified period to continue operation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by DGCA to ensure operational safety and redressal of grievances in the event of any accident at the airports which are yet to be licensed?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In the year 2004, the Aircraft Act and Rules were amended to make it mandatory for all the airports in the country, to be licensed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation irrespective of their ownership. However, in the same rule, a provision was made that the airports which were in existence prior to 2004 would be given a transition time to enable them to take the licenses. This transition time has been extended upto 30.06.2011, through a recent Government Notification. Presently, 6 airports belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) where scheduled operations take place, possess a valid license. AAI has already submitted applications along with documents for 36 AAI airports to DGCA for grant of license and the licensing process is in advance stage. Applications for remaining 14 airports of AAI are in the process of submission.

(c) The documentation for license applications is a lengthy process and needs various documentations and compliance to provisions as per the revised parameters given by DGCA and therefore requires time to complete the process. However, the airports meet all the applicable norms for safe and secure operations as these airports are in operations for several years prior to the amendments necessitating licences.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued a notification directing all aerodrome operators to get a valid license by 30.06.2011.

(f): Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC) with experts from Aviation Industry/Stakeholder has been set up in the DGCA to continue to address all the issues pertaining to operational Safety, oversight of Airlines, aerodromes, Air Navigation, and human factor etc.

Surveillance of aerodromes is being carried out as per the annual surveillance programme.

In addition inspection of the aerodromes is also carried out as and when some deficiency comes to the notice.

Following steps have been initiated to enhance the safety at the aerodromes with the aerodrome operators;

1. Provision of Runway End Safety Area 2. Ensure proper marking on runway 3. Proper maintenance of Basic strip and ensuring Frangibility criteria 4. Periodic calibration of Nav aids 5. Maintenance of runway surface within appropriate Friction level 6. Removal of Obstructions and proper marking and lighting of permissible obstacles 7. Safety risk assessment in respect of non-compliances.