

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1590
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2010
INDIAN AVIATION SECTOR
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mangalore crash in May, 2010 claiming 158 lives, brought into sharp focus the safety and infrastructure problems dogging the Indian aviation sector;
- (b) if so, whether it has been revealed that there have been seventy near misses in the past three years;
- (c) whether domestic air traffic has jumped from 15 million passengers annually to 35 million over the past six years and this is set to grow even more rapidly with domestic airlines expected to add over 600 planes to their fleets over the next two decades; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to handle the situation?

Answer

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

- (a):- The reasons for the accident of M/s. Air India Express Boeing 737 aircraft on 22nd May, 2010 at Mangalore are being examined.
- (b):- There have been 27, 28 and 15 air proximity incidents reported during the year 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively.
- (c) and (d):- During the year 2004 the domestic passenger traffic was 18.2 million, which has increased to 43.8 million in 2009. Growth of Civil Aviation sector depends on various factors like GDP, foreign tourist arrival, global economic situation, ATF price, etc. The airline operators devise their aircraft induction plans commensurate with the growth of passenger traffic. Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have fully geared up to handle the growth in the aviation sector like infrastructure facilities and regulatory mechanisms being upgraded and augmented taking future growth into consideration.