

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2097
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
FLIGHT DELAYS
Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the frequent flight delays and the resultant sufferings to the passengers;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has implemented stick-to-slot policy at major airports in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the improvements made on the implementation of the scheme;
- (d) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to more airports in the country in near future;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS & MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The `Stick-to-Slot` Policy issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) vide Air Transport Circular 10/2009 have been implemented by DGCA and Airports Authority of India (AAI) at major airports in the country where there are flight delays.

(c) Salient features of this policy are as follows:

1. Departure Slots have been distributed evenly within an Hour with not more than five departure Slots in 10 minutes and total 30 per hour.
2. Airlines shall file flight plan with scheduled time of departure as per approved schedule.
3. Aircraft shall contact Air Traffic Control (ATC) for departure clearance not more than 45 minutes prior to scheduled time of departure and not later than 15 minutes prior to scheduled time of departure and contact Surface Movement Control (SMC) at least 15 minutes prior to schedule time of departure.
4. Approval for push back and start up shall be valid for five minutes only. Aircraft not adhering to pushback clearance will go back in the sequence. Subsequent clearance will be given based on the available slot.

Significant improvement in On-time performance of airlines have been noticed after implementation of the above Air Transport Circular.

(d): No, Madam.

(e): Not applicable in view of above.

(f): At smaller airports where there are only few flights operating, delays are not significant.