

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:9

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

DREAMLINER AIRCRAFT

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.; Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the frequent occurrence of technical snags in Air India`s Dreamliner aircraft;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents since the induction of these aircraft into Air India`s fleet;
- (c) whether the Government and Air India have taken up the issue with the manufacturer and supplier of Dreamliner, if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has conducted any investigation into the airworthiness of Dreamliner aircraft and if so, the details of the findings thereon;and
- (e) whether the Government will ground Dreamliner Aircraft till all the technical faults are rectified and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), AND (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.9 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2013 REGARDING DREAMLINER AIRCRAFT.

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Gradual induction of B-787 aircraft (Dreamliner) in Air India fleet started from September, 2012. Since then and till 27th November, 2013, 136 minor technical snags have occurred on these aircraft which were fixed by Boeing/ Air India technical teams with alacrity.

(c) In January, 2013, there was an incident overseas relating to the batteries installed on an B787 aircraft, which necessitated grounding of the B787 fleet worldwide in accordance with a directive issued by FAA of USA. Boeing Company, the manufacturer of the aircraft brought in some improvisation in the batteries unit to obviate occurrence of any such incident in future which was duly approved by FAA. The requisite rectification was carried out on the batteries units of Dreamliners of AI fleet by a team of experts deputed by Boeing at Air India`s facility in Mumbai. On completion of this modification work, the aircraft were put back in service by mid May, 2013. Air India is constantly in contact with Boeing on the issue of Technical Reliability of the aircraft. Boeing technical team has been involved in root cause analysis and in evolving the remedial measures. Accordingly, a reliability enhancement modification package consisting of upgrades to aircraft software and components has been prepared. A Boeing team has arrived to check at Air India Mumbai facility to undertake these modifications. The modification is being sequentially carried out on each of the Dreamliner aircraft during a 10-day maintenance grounding, with effect from 1st December 2013.

(d) DGCA has ordered an investigation into an incident on Boeing 787, VT-ANK at Bangalore where a Panel detachment incident had occurred during approach. The investigation report is awaited.

(e) No, Madam. However, as a reliability enhancement measure, each Dreamliner aircraft has been taken in for 10-day maintenance grounding beginning from 1st December, 2013.