

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4349

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014

FINE IMPOSED ON AIR INDIA

Ahmed Shri Sultan ;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir;Sugumar Shri K. ;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Federal Aviation Administration had downgraded the country's civil aviation safety ranking and if so, the details thereof ;
- (b) Whether Indian flights would have go through more engineering and other safety checks in the United States of America and if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the US Department of Transportation (DoT) has imposed a hefty fine on Air India and if so, the details of the fine levied, the reasons therefor and the action taken on the officials responsible for lapses in this regard; and
- (d) the steps being taken to upgrade civil aviation security in the country to that of International level ?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

- (a) : Yes Madam. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) based on the International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) audit carried out by FAA in September 2013 and subsequent review conducted in December 2013 has placed India under Category 2 rating.; The Category 2 has been assigned primarily due to the finding related to lack of sufficient number of regular FOIs in DGCA resulting in DGCA's inability to have effective safety oversight of its operators.
- (b) Under Category 2 US will not permit any expansion/changes to the services of Indian air carriers to the US and the existing operations of Indian air carriers to US are subjected to `heightened FAA surveillance`. Heightened surveillance implies that aircraft of Indian air carriers operating to US will be subjected to frequent ramp inspections on landing in US.
- (c) FAA vide letter dated 06 Sept 2013, informed that Air India (AI) has violated the Specific Requirements of Transportation of Hazardous Material by not declaring the Company Material of Passenger Service Unit(PSU) thus transported as Hazardous on AI-101, thereby exposing AI to a liability of penalty up to USD 50,000. AI was given an opportunity to respond suitably and several details about the organization were sought. AI contested that the subject PSU did not contain any Chemical Generator as alleged by FAA. FAA, vide their letter dated 25 Sept accepted AI's contention. However, FAA upon review found that AI is still liable on account of transporting a PSU containing a charged Oxygen Cylinder Assembly. The manufacturer M/s BE Aerospace in their Maintenance Documentation did not classify this item as Dangerous Goods for transportation. The matter has been taken up with BE Aerospace. They plan to update the Component Maintenance Manual to include classification & Storage/transportation in the leading particulars section. This was also conveyed to FAA as well, vide AI's email dated 30 Sept 2013.
- (d) The International Standards in Civil Aviation Security are set by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). India is a member country of ICAO and is compliant with the international standards set by ICAO. The compliance has been periodically verified by ICAO by way of Audits. The International Civil Aviation Organization has been organizing meetings of the contracting state in Montreal Canada from time to time to discuss the standards issued in form of Annexure-17. India is compliant with ICAO standards of security both at International and domestic airports.