

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3479

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2009

DELAY/CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS DUE TO FOG

Deora Shri Milind Murl;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of flights both National and International delayed/ cancelled due to fog every year alongwith the loss of revenue during the last three years,year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government plan to train its pilots to fly under the foggy conditions;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps being taken to make all airlines to train their pilots for operating in CAT-III B conditions; and
- (e) the measures likely to be taken to provide better amenities to passengers particularly during foggy days?

Answer

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

- (a) Due to visibility falling below operating minima during fog, many a time, flights get delayed/cancelled. Most airlines do not maintain details related to delays due to `landing restrictions` or late clearance for take off.
- (b) & (c) Pilots of scheduled domestic airlines are trained for CAT II/ III operations during low visibility conditions as per Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regulations. All the scheduled domestic airlines have confirmed that they have sufficient number of trained CAT III pilots commensurate with CAT III compliant aircraft in their fleet.
- (d) In accordance with ICAO guidelines, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already installed CAT III B ILS at IGI airport, New Delhi, which permits operation of aircraft up to Runway Visual Range [RVR] of 50 meters which can be used by airlines with certified pilots. All airlines are directed/encouraged to plan their operations with aircrafts and pilots capable of operating under such low visibility conditions. In addition, Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) have also been installed at 42 other airports to enable aircraft operation in low visibility conditions.
- (e) A coordination meeting is conducted to interact with airline operators, agencies and concessionaires to gear up to cater to additional number of passengers, visitors and aircraft movements during the period. The passengers are informed by the airlines in advance about rescheduling of flights due to fog. In case of cancellations, passengers are given option to either take refund or avail next available flight. Light refreshments are provided to the passengers in case of delays beyond two hours. In addition, other passengers facilities like display on CCTV monitors regarding delayed flights, availability of trolleys, additional personnel are deployed for manning of the toilets and ensure cleanliness inside and cityside of terminals, advise to airlines operators to coordinate arrangements for stay of the stranded passengers of delayed flights etc.