

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1290

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2014

OPERATIONS OF FLIGHTS UNDER FOGGY CONDITIONS

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of flights both domestic as well as international flights have been cancelled due to dense fog during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, airline and year- wise along with the losses incurred by various airlines as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made it mandatory for all the airports to install CAT- IIIB instrument landing system for low visibility conditions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the airports which have installed this system including those which are yet to install it; and
- (e) the other steps taken or being taken by the Government to tackle the problems faced by various airlines in take-off and landing during dense fog period?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) and (b) As per the information provided by Delhi International Airports Limited (DIAL), the flights cancelled due to low visibility at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi are 22, 05, 39, 07 for the year 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 (upto September) respectively. Information in respect of cancellation due to fog from all other airports and losses incurred by airlines on account of same has been sought from respective airport operators and airlines respectively.

(c) and (d): No Madam. At present only IGI Aiport, New Delhi is the only airport equipped with CAT-1II B instrument landing system. A feasibility study for installation of ILS CAT III B is under way for upgrading Lucknow, Amritsar, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Kolkata Airports

(e) To avoid delay and cancellation during low visibility, following decisions have been taken by DGCA for compliance of airlines:-
AH airlines will have to ensure that aircraft deployed to/from Delhi during low visibility conditions are CAT-III compliant and both the commander and co-pilot are also CAT-III trained.
Only CAT-III flight crew will operate the flights to/from Delhi in case weather predictions of CAT-III conditions are made by IMD. Failing to do so, such operations of the defaulting airline will be stopped to/from Delhi during low visibility conditions.
Airlines must take adequate care of providing basic amenities of water and refreshment to passengers during such conditions if the flights are delayed.

All stakeholders should have better communication procedure so that level of interaction with passengers increases during the fog and they are aware of flight delays.

One representative each from DGCA and IMD will be positioned at AOCC, DIAL who will interact with airlines, AAI and DIAL. DIAL will organise conference on daily basis wherein fog forecast for the day and next day will be provided by IMD. -Advance information of weather forecast availability to airlines.

All these decisions have been implemented with immediate effect.