

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2577
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014
TABLE TOP RUNWAYS
Mullappally Shri Ramachandran

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the airports where table top runways are operational in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has received any comments/observations on the safety of table top runways in the country and if so, the details thereof and the response of DGCA thereto;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to evaluate the risk factors associated with the operations of table top runways including Calicut and Mangalore runways; and
- (d) if so, the details and the findings thereof along with the steps taken to eliminate these risk factors?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri G. M. Siddeshwara)

(a): The operational airports at Calicut in Kerala, Mangalore in Karnataka, Shimla and Gaggal in Himachal Pradesh and Lengpui in Mizoram are with tabletop runways.

(b) to (d): No, Madam. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has not received any comments/ observations on the safety of table top runways in the recent past. However, post Mangalore crash, 11 Airports i.e. Leh, Kullu, Shimla, Port Blair, Agartala, Lengpui, Calicut, Mangalore, Jammu, Patna and Latur, which were considered critical Airports from flight operation point of view, were inspected. As a part of Safety reassurance drive, the airport system, facilities & procedures were thoroughly reviewed by DGCA to enhance the safety of aircraft operations at these airports. Inspection of these airports were carried out by a team of officials from DGCA and Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Committee (CASAC) members. Based on the suggestions given by the inspection team, following actions have been taken to enhance the safety at the aerodromes:

- (i) Provision of Runway End Safety Area
- (ii) Ensure proper marking on runway
- (iii) Proper maintenance of Basic strip and ensuring Frangibility criteria
- (iv) Periodic calibration of Navigational aids
- (v) Maintenance of runway surface within appropriate Friction level
- (vi) Removal of Obstruction and proper marking and lighting of permissible obstacles
- (vii) Safety risk assessment by Airlines for operating aircrafts, Payload penalty, training of crew etc.