

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:97

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014

DREAMLINER AIRCRAFT

Maragatham Smt. K.;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of frequent occurrence of technical snags in the Air India Dreamliner aircraft including recently suffered crack on windshield while flying to Kolkata from Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported in the past;

(c) whether Air India has taken up these issues with aircraft manufacturer and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the aircraft manufacturer thereto; and

(d) the measures taken or being taken by the Government for safe air travel?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 97 PRIORITY NO. 17 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.07.2014 REGARDING DREAMLINER AIRCRAFT TABLED BY SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO, MP AND SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM, MP

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Till, June 2014 a total of 318 instances of service delays due to different technical snags have been reported out of which cases of Windshield cracks are only four as per details annexed.

(c) Air India is in constant touch with Boeing on the issue of Technical Reliability of the aircraft. Boeing technical team has visited India and as a reliability enhancement measure, each Dreamliner aircraft was taken in for a 7 to 10 day maintenance grounding during the month of December, 2013 to March, 2014. In the case of recent windshield crack incidents, on-going investigation by Boeing indicates that moisture ingress has resulted in an increased rate of occurrence of cracking of non-structural outer glass ply which does not affect the safety of the Aircraft due to windshield's 'fail safe' (multiple-layer) construction. Also, a new window design with improved features is in progress to reduce cracking. Boeing has further assured that old windshields shall be replaced by new windshields with improved design feature.

(d) All new Aircraft models, like the Dreamliners, when inducted initially, face teething troubles and regular improvements are incorporated as a part of reliability enhancement programme. This is a normal process followed as an intrinsic part of maintenance throughout the life span of the aircraft in operation. The system reliability issues on the Dreamliners are caused by airplane software as well as failures of some of the components. These issues are being resolved in consultation with Boeing through reliability enhancement modifications. Besides, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the safety Regulator, from time to time issues Regulations, Directions/Instructions in accordance with Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules 1937 and in consonance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPs) to ensure safe air travel.