GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1468
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
INDIAN AEROSPACE REGULATIONS
Galla Shri Jayadev

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federal Aviation Authority of the United States has downgraded Indian aerospace regulations from Category-I to Category-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to affect Indian carriers flying on international routes?

Answer

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

(a) No, Madam. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of USA found the Indian aerospace regulation in compliance with the standards laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). FAA has assigned Category 2 status to India because of shortage of flight operations inspections in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) leading to ineffective oversight on the operators.

(b) FAA conducted an audit of DGCA in September 2013 and again visited DGCA in December 2013 to confirm actions taken on the findings raised in September 2013. Out of the total 31 findings raised in September, 2013, FAA during the December visit closed 24 findings. FAA on 31st January, 2014 informed DGCA that India has been assigned Category 2 from Category 1 which India had been holding since 1997. The Category 2 has been assigned primarily due to the finding related to lack of sufficient number of regular Flight Operations Inspectors (FOIs) in DGCA resulting in DGCA`s inability to have effective safety oversight of its operators.

(c) The results of a downgrade to Category 2 implies that US does not permit any expansion/ changes to the services of Indian air carriers flying to US and the existing operations of Indian air carriers to US are subjected to `heightened FAA surveillance`. Indian air carriers while flying to international destinations other than US may also be subjected to increased inspections by other regulatory authorities.