

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:196  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014  
EFFECTIVE TRACKING OF AIRCRAFT  
Pal Shri Jagdambika

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures to ensure effective tracking of aircraft in the wake of the recent instance of total disappearance of Malaysian Airlines flight;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued directions to all scheduled/ non- scheduled operators for continuous operation of Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS) during flight vide Air Safety Circular 04 of 2014. In this regard, DGCA has issued following instructions for strict compliance by all scheduled/ non-scheduled operators:

- (i) Operators should use all suitable means to track all its aircraft engaged in the carriage of passengers/cargo from departure (Chocks-off) to arrival (Chocks-on) so as to ensure real time tracking.
  - (ii) Aircraft wherein the ACARS system is not available/disabled, operator must ensure real time flight tracking using Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B).
  - (iii) Operators must ensure that ACARS/ADS-B are fully functional before every departure.
  - (iv) Strict instructions should be given to the flight crew not to switch it off during the flight.
  - (v) Areas where there is no coverage of ACARS/ADS-B, operator should devise a procedure for effective tracking of the aircraft. While flying over such areas, the flight crew should report the aircraft coordinates, speed and altitude at an interval of not exceeding 15 minutes.
  - (vi) Flight crew should immediately report to the ground station any intermittent behaviour/ unserviceability of ACARS/ ADS-B during flight either using data link or voice message.;
  - (vii) Operators should monitor both fault and warning messages of ACARS. They should opt for this facility from their service providers.
- (c): Does not arise.