

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1832  
(To be answered on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021)**

**DELAYED FLIGHTS**

**1832. SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE  
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानतल मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether a large number of domestic and international flights of various public and private sector airlines are delayed/cancelled due to dense fog during the current winter season and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the losses incurred by various airlines as a result thereof, airline-wise during the said period;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of pilots in the country who are trained to fly under foggy condition and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the total number of passengers who were severely affected by cancellation of these flights;
- (e) whether any alternative arrangements was made for these passengers for travelling to their desired destination and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION**

**नागर विमानतल मन्त्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतन्त्र प्रश्न)**

**(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)**

- (a) The number of the flights delayed and cancelled due to weather, which includes fog and other reasons, in respect of scheduled domestic airlines for the period November-December 2020, as submitted by the airlines is at Annexure-I. So far as scheduled commercial international passenger flights are concerned, these were suspended with effect from 22.03.2020 and international flights are presently being operated only under Vande Bharat Mission and Air Bubble Agreements with various countries.
- (b) As a result of dense fog, airlines have to re-schedule and sometimes cancel

the flights. This adversely impacts the efficiency of the airlines. It is difficult to evaluate the exact loss due to dense fog.

(c) There is no shortage of pilots in the country who are approved for low visibility operations.

(d) Total number of passengers affected due to cancellation of flights, during November-December 2020 are as follows:

Month	Number of passenger affected
November 2020	14062
December 2020	28974

(e) The compensation/ facilities provided by the airlines due to flights delayed and cancelled were as per the provisions of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), Section-3, Series-M, Part-IV which included providing refreshments, rescheduling of flights, providing compensation and transfer to other airline.

(f) The various initiatives taken by Airports Authority of India(AAI)/ DGCA to obviate/ minimise problems faced by various airlines in taking off and landing during dense fog conditions include:-

(i) Installation of CAT-IIIB Instrument Landing System (ILS) at major airports to enable suitably equipped aircraft to operate in low visibility / during fog season.

(ii) Installation and upgradation of radio navigation aids (ILS, VOR/DME) and surveillance system at various airports for instrument (based) landing, take-off and ground movement thus facilitating operations in lower visibility conditions.

(iii) In order to provide for continued aircraft operations and address the air traffic congestion and consequent delays, the CATFM (Centre Air Traffic Flow Management) system, which balances demand and capacity has been installed at New Delhi.

(iv) LVP (Low Visibility Procedures)/ LVTO (Low Visibility Take-off Procedures) have been incorporated at major airports to enable seamless and safe aircraft operation during fog.

(v) RNP (Required Navigation Performance) approaches have been introduced at airports for continued access to airports.

(vi) In order to ensure that flight services should not get disrupted due to fog, DGCA has issued CAR, Section-3, Series-C, Part-II, titled "Minimum Requirements For Grant Of Permit To Operate Scheduled Passenger Air Transport Services". Under the provision of said CAR, the operators, who do not have ILS Category IIIA/IIIB compliant aircraft in the fleet together with appropriately trained/ rated pilots shall plan their winter fog schedule to/from Delhi from 1000 hours to 2000 hours so as to avoid disruption of approved schedule.

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In response to part (a) of Lok Sabha USQ 1832 for 11.02.2021 regarding "Delayed Flight"

**Annexure I**

**Airline wise details of Flights Cancelled & Flights Delayed**

Airlines	Number of Flights Cancelled		Number of Flights Delayed	
	Nov-20	Dec-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Air India	170	97	333	563
Air Asia	22	20	79	229
Go Air	0	25	303	492
IndiGo	350	439	283	699
Spicejet	90	139	260	707
Vistara	16	66	113	313

