

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 43
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th February 2023)

MEASURES TAKEN BY DGCA ON FLIGHT DISRUPTIONS DUE TO FOG

*43. DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE

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

- (a) whether Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken any serious note of the flight disruptions due to fog during winter;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of domestic/international flights cancelled or delayed and losses suffered by the airlines on diversion of flights due to fog and hovering of aircraft due to congestion during the last year at IGI Airport;
- (d) whether the private airlines are not willing to provide training to their pilots for CAT -II or III (instrument approach operation); and
- (e) if so, the action taken by DGCA?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Starred Ques. No. 43 regarding "Measures taken by DGCA on flight disruptions due to fog" to be answered on 06.02.2023.

(a) & (b) In order to avoid flight disruption due to fog in winter season, DGCA conducted stakeholders annual meeting prior to commencement of fog period with Airline operator, Aerodrome operator including Defence, Air Navigation service providers and Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to ensure safe and smooth conduct of flight operations during fog.

All Airlines were directed to roster only those pilots who are qualified for CAT-II/ III and certified for LVTO for operating flight between time period 21:00 hrs to 10:00 hrs (IST) of following day during the fog period.

Further, DGCA checked the preparedness of Aerodrome and ATM facilities during scheduled surveillance inspections.

(c) During the period from December, 2022 to January, 2023, a total of 20 domestic departure and 03 international departure flights and 31 domestic arrival and 03 international arrival flights were cancelled at IGI airport.

Further, 13 flights were diverted, 846 domestic flights and 458 international flights were delayed at IGI airport during this period.

Fog & Congestion may lead to delays as well as diversion of flights which lead to increase of operating costs of the airlines which are part of their financial statements.

(d) & (e) No Sir. The private airlines are willing to provide training to their pilots to qualify for CAT-II/ III flight operations.
