

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 9
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th December 2023)

FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

*9. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA

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

- (a) whether any measures have been taken by Government to reduce flight cancellations and diversions during the fog period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any decline in flight cancellations and diversions, due to such interventional measures of Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government plans to further improve preparedness for fog conditions?

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. 09 regarding "Flight cancellations and delays" to be answered on 04.12.2023

(a) & (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) engages with stakeholders every year prior to start of fog period to ensure their preparedness for fog-related operations. Following actions are taken before onset of fog period:

- i) Special audits of CAT II/III ILS facilities to ensure uninterrupted Air Navigation Services (ANS) during fog season
- ii) Inspections to ensure that critical/sensitive areas are secured appropriately at aerodromes
- iii) Direction to Airlines to bring changes in their flight schedules in order to eliminate CAT II/III non-compliant aircraft from operating during fog and
- iv) Directions to Airlines to ensure scheduling of CAT II/III qualified crew only.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir, In order to prepare for onset of fog period, the number of inspection and special audits were increased over the last two years to enhance various facilities at Airports and in the area of Air Navigation services. As a result, despite increase in flights by about 20%, flight cancellations which was 0.09% during 2021-2022 of total flight movements reduced to 0.05% of total flight movements in 2022-2023.

(e): (1) Regular surveillance of various facilities such as Aerodrome, Air Navigation Services, Meteorological equipment etc. to ensure compliance towards applicable regulations.

(2) Audits of fog affected airports to ensure uninterrupted air navigational services, aerodrome lightings and other related facilities and to ensure critical and sensitive areas are secured appropriately, before the onset of fog period.

(3) Direction to Airlines before onset of fog to ensure the following

- i. To bring changes in flight schedules in order to eliminate CAT II/III non-compliant aircraft from operating during the fog period
- ii. To ensure scheduling of only CAT II/III qualified crew for fog affected airports
- iii. To ensure passenger handling during delays are as per laid down norms
- iv. To ensure positioning of Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) at diversion airports.

(4) The whole preparedness drive is closely monitored and reviewed by Government before the onset of fog period.
