

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 27
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th February 2024
DISRUPTION IN FLIGHT OPERATIONS

27. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether problems were faced in flight operations from airports, flight delays, and cancellation of many flights in January 2024 due to cold waves in North India, including Delhi;
- (b) the reasons for disruptions in flight operations at Delhi Airport during the cold waves;
- (c) whether anyone has been held accountable for these disruptions; and
- (d) whether technical facilities are not available/adequate at the airports of the country as per Government's commitments, due to which the operations of flights have been affected during the cold waves and the status thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (d) A STATEMENT IS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE RAJYA SABHA.

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Ques. No. 27 regarding "Disruption in flight operations" to be answered on 05.02.2024

(a) & (b) Problems were faced in flight operations, including flight delays, and cancellation of flights in January, 2024 due to the severe fog/cold wave conditions in North India, including Delhi.

The reasons for disruption in flight operations at Delhi Airport during the cold wave are as follows:

- i. Prevalence of severe fog condition.
- ii. Due to some aircrafts not being capable to land in CAT III conditions and some pilots not being CAT III certified.

(c) & (d) Show cause notices were issued to M/s Air India and M/s Spicejet Ltd for not operating with adequately qualified and current CAT III certified pilots and based on their replies, Rs. 30 Lakh each penalty has been imposed on M/s Air India and M/s Spicejet Ltd for deploying non qualified CAT III certified pilots during the fog window.

There are 06 airports in India where Runway is certified for CAT III operations as per the details below:

1. Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi
2. Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow
3. Jaipur International Airport
4. Sri Guru Ram Das Jee, International Airport, Amritsar
5. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, International Airport, Kolkata
6. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
