INCREASING INSTANCES OF FLIGHT DELAYS

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

(a) the specific strategies Government is implementing to effectively reduce and manage the increasing instances of flight delays;
(b) the manner in which Government is enhancing air traffic control and airport infrastructure to address the root causes of flight delays;
(c) the measures being taken to protect and compensate passengers adversely affected by frequent flight delays and cancellations; and
(d) the details of collaborations with airlines to streamline operations and improve flight punctuality across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

 (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducts meeting for preparedness FOG/low visibility operations for smooth flight operations with all stake holders before commencement of fog period and issues periodic instructions in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) / circulars.

(b): The recruitment of sufficient manpower/ Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) for smooth Air Traffic Management in line with guidelines prescribed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is a regular process, which is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) based on the requirement at various stations/ airports.
To meet the growing air traffic demands, AAI and other Airport Operators have targeted capital outlay of approximately Rs. 98,000 crore in the airport sector during 2019- 2024 for construction of Greenfield Airports and new terminals, expansion and modernisation of existing terminals and strengthening of runways, among other activities.
The Government has taken several measures to enhance the ease of travel for passengers such as capacity enhancement through infrastructural changes in existing terminals, installation and commissioning of additional X-ray machines

for baggage check, deployment of additional manpower by CISF (Central Industrial Security Force), airlines and airport operators, management of slot allocation, co-ordination with airlines to avoid bunching of flights etc.

With a view to provide seamless and hassle-free experience for passengers at airports, the Government has launched Digi Yatra for biometric-based travel using Facial Recognition Technology.

(c) & (d): DGCA has issued CAR Section-3, Series-M, Part-IV on "facilities to be provided by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights" with a view to protect and compensate passengers adversely affected by flight delays and cancellations.

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