

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
Rajya Sabha**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1448**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9th December 2024**

**FLIGHTS DELAYS FOR VARIOUS REASONS**

**1448. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many flights report delays due to various reasons;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether there is any mechanism in place to ensure effective communication between the regulatory body and airlines;**
- (d) whether Government has devised any guidelines for airlines to prevent frequent delays; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION  
(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)**

**(a) & (b) Flights are occasionally delayed due to various reasons such as weather, operational, commercial ATC, ramp, technical, airport issues etc.**

**(c) DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) which lays down the minimum safety requirements required to be followed by airlines to ensure safe aircraft operations. In addition, DGCA also issues circulars to airlines/ operators/ maintenance organizations which provide guidance for the implementation of CARs.**

**(d) & (e) In order to ensure adherence of the flight schedules by the airlines and to mitigate flight delay, DGCA has issued Air Transport Circular 05 of 2017, titled "Procedure to be followed to mitigate flight delays" attached as Annexure. Additionally, DGCA conducts meeting for fog preparedness and low visibility operations aimed at ensuring smooth flight operations during the winter months before commencement of the fog period during**

**winter. Furthermore, the DGCA issues instructions in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs), circulars, and minutes of meetings, as deemed necessary, to address and resolve any emerging operational challenges on an ongoing basis.**

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT  
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Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2017

**AIR TRANSPORT CIRCULAR 05 OF 2017**

Subject: **Procedure to be followed to mitigate flight delays.**

Civil Aviation Requirement Section 3, Series C, Part II and VIII stipulates that the operator shall get the flight schedules approved by DGCA at least 30 days in advance and operate services in accordance with the flight schedules so approved.

In order to ensure enforcement of the flight schedules, following procedure has been laid down for strict compliance of all concerned:

- a) Departure slots may be distributed evenly within an hour with not be more than five departure slots in 10 minutes and total of 30 per hour.
- b) Airlines shall file flight plan with scheduled time of departure as per approved schedule.
- c) Generally, the flight plan with scheduled time of departure other than approved slot shall not be accepted by ATC. For such cases, alternate slot will be allocated by ATC based on availability of vacant slots. To cater for non-scheduled/VIP/military operations, airport operator in coordination with AAI may reserve slots for such flights as per traffic profile.
- d) Aircraft shall contact Clearance Delivery Unit (CLD) for ATC clearance not more than 45 minutes prior to scheduled time of departure and not later than 15 minutes prior to scheduled time of departure.
- e) Aircraft shall contact Surface Movement Control (SMC) for pushback and start up at least 15 minutes prior to schedule time of departure.
- f) Approval for push back and start up shall be valid for five minutes only. Aircraft not adhering to pushback clearance will go back in the sequence. Subsequent clearance will be given based on available slot.

- g) Sequence of departures shall be decided by ATC based on the position and readiness of aircraft approaching the entry point of the runway.
- h) Aircraft shall complete all pre-departure checks and cabin procedures prior to entering the runway and start rolling as soon take-off clearance is issued by ATC.
- i) Airport operators shall prepare parking plan in such a way that no two aircraft having departure within 20 minutes are parked on the same block of parking bays.
- j) Airlines shall forward aircraft routing by 1800 hrs the previous day to Airport Operational Control Centre (AOCC) so that aircraft parkings are planned accordingly.
- k) In case of weather related or emergency related delays, Watch Supervisory Officer (WSO) shall be responsible for allocation of alternate slots.
- l) Airlines not adhering to the approved time slots shall be liable to lose the historicity in the next schedule except in the case of scheduled flights subjected to flow measures during the capacity constrained period.

**Note:** The above provisions will not be applicable at Airports where Airport-Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) has been implemented.

This supersedes the **AIR TRANSPORT CIRCULAR 03 OF 2017**.

Sd/-

**(B.S. Bhullar)**

Director General of Civil Aviation

To:

All scheduled airlines/Airport Operators