

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1770
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17th March 2025

**ENHANCING ELECTRICAL SAFETY, FIRST-AID SERVICES,
AND FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT ACROSS ALL AIRPORTS**

1770. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE

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

(a) whether Government is aware about the fire incidents that took place during aircraft maintenance at the airport, the fire caused by a bag with a flammable chemical being loaded at Mumbai airport, and the truck carrying bituminous material that ignited at Bengaluru airport;

(b) the steps Government has taken in cooperation with stakeholders to enhance the safety of aviation fuel stations at airports, and plans in place to train staff on safety inspections; and

(c) initiatives taken by Government in collaboration with all involved parties to enhance electrical safety, first-aid services, and firefighting equipment across all airports?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): On 16th August, 2024, smoke was observed from the registered baggage container (AKE 5143 ET) of flight ET-641 at Mumbai Airport. The smoke was detected from a bag kept in a container. Since a small fire had erupted at that time, the affected bag was removed and fire was doused properly. After arrival of teams of Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) including Fire Brigade and further enquiry, it was ascertained that unknown chemical substance kept in the registered baggage of a certain passenger, travelling in the flight had caused the fire incident,

which was contained in time. Necessary subsequent actions including lodging a FIR against the concerned passenger were taken.

In 2021, during COVID a truck with thermoplastic paint & LPG while applying road markings caught fire in vehicular underpass which was under construction at landside of the Bangalore airport. The accident was fully investigated and referred to the authorities. The incident happened due to safety procedures not followed by the contractor / sub-contractor, complacency and employing inexperienced workers (due to shortage of workers during COVID lockdown) for such basic works.

All fuel farm and the associated facilities are subject to regular checks. Additionally, periodic simulated exercises are carried out. Further, fuel hydrant lines and associated facility which goes for aircraft fueling is approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and regular audits are carried out.

Fire security regulations governing electrical systems are complied with. Adequate arrangements including Medical assistance are in place for prevention and handling of such situations.

The concerned fire regulatory authority also evaluates and approves the fire safety of airport terminal buildings and other auxiliary buildings before they are operational.

Combined fire and building evacuation drills (with all working agencies /stake holders) are also conducted at Airports.
