GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 45
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st July 2025)

LINGERING ON DGCA AUDIT RELATES TO SECURITY

45.   DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

(a) DGCA audits found critical lapses such as faded runway markings, poor simulator standards at major airports, the reasons for lingering of these basic security issues;
(b) with India aiming for 200+ airports by 2030, reasons for infrastructure upgrades not keeping pace, thereby risking passenger safety;
(c) accountability mechanisms that exist to penalize authorities and contractors responsible for airport upkeep failures; and
(d) whether the timelines exist for rectifying these issues and publishing publicly the tracked progress?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

 (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) continues to monitor the operations of all operators including by way of audits, surveillances and spot checks. The observations/findings are communicated to aerodrome operators for corrective actions. Safety concern raised in audit/inspection are acted upon with immediate effect so that airport infrastructure is maintained as per civil aviation requirement. This is an ongoing continuous exercise to ensure safe operations at airports so that airport infrastructure is maintained as per Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR).

(b): To handle the increasing passenger traffic and cargo volumes in the country, Government has taken various steps, which, inter-alia, include grant of In-Principle' approval for construction of new Greenfield airports, upgradation and modernisation of existing airports by Airports Authority of India (AAI), Development/revival of unserved/underserved airports under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) and promoting private investments in existing and new airports through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) .

So far, GoI has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of 24 Greenfield Airports across the country. Out of which, 12 Greenfield airports viz. Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar, Itanagar, Mopa, Shivamogga and Rajkot have become operational.

Further, Modernisation and development of infrastructure facilities at the existing airports is a continuous process, which is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or the Airport Operators/Developers concerned depending upon traffic demand, commercial feasibility, operational requirements for safety of aircraft operation and demand from airlines etc. Development works are taken up in a phased manner depending upon availability of land and viability, as well as other facilities with reference to intended aircraft operations.

To improve the aviation industry in the country, Airports Authority of India and PPP Partners have incurred a CAPEX of more than Rs. 96000 crore during FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25.

The total number of operational airports in the country have increased to 162 with capacity to handle more than 540 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA).

(c) & (d): DGCA has a laid down mechanism of conducting surveillance, spot checks, night surveillance etc. of the airlines/airports/ organizations and personnel. Safety concern raised in such inspections are acted upon with immediate effect so that airport infrastructure is maintained as per civil aviation requirement.The action taken to correct the observation are reviewed to enforce corrective and preventive action. In case of violations, DGCA takes enforcement action in accordance with laid down procedures which may consist of warning, suspension, cancellation including imposition of financial penalty.

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