ATC TECHNICAL PROBLEM AT DELHI AIRPORT

1613.   SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

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

(a) immediate steps taken by Government and the concerned agencies to ensure passenger safety and maintain flight operations during the technical failure in the Air Traffic Control (ATC) messaging system at Delhi airport;
(b) repair works carried out by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Air Navigation Services (ANS), and ECIL, the details thereof;
(c) whether the ATC system was restored in a timely manner following the inspections and instructions given by the Minister; and
(d) the corrective measures proposed, including root cause analysis and strengthening the system with additional/fallback servers, to prevent the recurrence of such technical issues in the future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

 (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): On observation of High latency in the processing and delivery of Air Traffic Services (ATS) messages to Air Traffic Management Automation System (ATMAS) at Delhi Airport, Manual Flight Planning and Flight Information Centre/Air Defence Clearance (FIC/ADC) procedures were activated. Additional personnel were deployed, and Flight Plans (FPLs) were processed manually to ensure continued flight operations.

(b) & (c): The Airports Authority of India (AAI), in coordination with ECIL, jointly analysed the issue and restored the system in a timely manner using a standalone database server. To maintain redundancy, an additional standalone database server was made available for backup support. Subsequently, the existing core switches and database servers were replaced with upgraded versions to enhance system performance. The system is now functioning normally.

(d): To avert recurrence of such events, AAI has undertaken the replacement of the existing IP-based Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) with the new Air

Traffic Services Message Handling System (AMHS). Further, AAI has been directed to carry out a comprehensive audit of all Communication, Navigation, and Surveillance (CNS) equipment across the airports to evaluate their condition, operational reliability, and lifecycle management.

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