

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 94
(To be answered on the 27th June 2019)**

ENTRY OF STRAY ANIMALS ON THE RUNWAYS OF AIRPORTS

***94. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE
SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

तागर विमानत मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether incidence of entering of stray animals on the runways of various airports in the country have increased during the last three years and the current year;**
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents reported from various airports during the said period; and**
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government/Airports Authority of India to prevent such incidents and for the protection of the aircraft as well as the passengers?**

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

तागर विमानत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Ques. No. 94 regarding "Entry of Stray Animals on the Runways of Airports" to be answered on 27.06.2019.

(a) The number of incidences of stray animals entering the runway of various airports has decreased in the country from the year 2017.

(b) The number of such occurrences in various airports in the country for the year 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (till April) is as under:

Year	No. of Animal Straying incidents
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2016	05
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2017	76
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2018	50
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2019	16
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(Till 30.04.2019)

(c) Various steps towards strengthening of infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, greater awareness creation and surveillance and technological innovations have been taken for eradicating the incidence of wildlife intrusion in airports. The measures taken by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) are attached as Annexure A.

Wildlife eradication measures taken by DGCA and AAI:-

1. Strengthening of Infrastructure:

- i. Perimeter wall/ fencing is maintained as per the standards i.e. 8 feet high wall and 1.5 feet concertina wire overhead. Holes in the perimeter wall are sealed.
- ii. Where traverse culverts, troughs or other openings are there in the perimeter wall, are being protected by fencing, iron grills or other suitable barriers to preclude unauthorized animal intrusion into the operational area.
- iii. Grading and leveling of areas to prevent water stagnation/ growth of wild vegetation on requirement basis.
- iv. Entry gates, at least up to 4 feet from ground, are covered with sheets/closely spaced grills so that dog cannot enter through the closed gates. Above 4 feet, if the spaces between grills are wider, pointers are kept to prevent the dogs from jumping through.
- v. Pigeon proofing of hangars and airports buildings.
- vi. Covering of open drains and preventing water stagnation in the vicinity of the airport.

2. Operational activities:

- i. Collection of garbage at designated points. Garbage bins are tied with polythene covers and disposed through authorized contractor to authorized dumping yard.
- ii. Regular deployment of manpower to sweep the areas and to pick-up Foreign Object Debris(FOD) / garbage, if any, from Apron and strips of taxiways / runways.
- iii. De-silting of drains existing in operational area prior to onset of monsoon to prevent water stagnation and to achieve smooth flow / discharge of rain water.
- iv. Regular spraying of insecticides.
- v. Joint inspection in 10 km radius around airport along with officials of Municipal Authorities are undertaken to identify the areas prone to bird/animal concentration followed by recording of observations and recommendations for the upkeep of identified prone areas.
- vi. Regular follow-up with concerned Municipal Authorities to implement recommendations of the joint inspection committee.
- vii. Prevention of open food outlet in the approach path of the runway.

3. Technological Innovations:

- i. Regular deployment of bird scarers on the strips of runway from dawn to dusk in two shifts to scare away/ disperse bird/ wildlife concentration by bursting crackers. The bird scarers are regularly briefed and their performance is regularly monitored.
- ii. Zone gun and bird xpeller are used to scare away bird/wildlife. Handheld colored laser pointers are also used to scare away the wildlife.
- iii. Establishment of modern slaughter houses.

4. Awareness creation and Surveillance:

- i. Creating awareness on effects of wildlife hits to aircraft among officials working at airport by imparting briefing during Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Airport Driving Permit (ADP) training classes.
- ii. Surveillance of operational area to identify wildlife activity and alerting Air Traffic Control (ATC) to advise pilots to exercise caution.
- iii. Creating awareness among employees of agencies at airports about measures to avoid wildlife attraction.
- iv. Airfield Environment Management Committee (AEMC) headed by Chief Secretary/Commissioner/ Head of the District concerned where the airfield is located is constituted at each airport. The members of AEMC are from Local Municipal Corporation, Health Authorities etc. The meetings of AEMC are convened at regular intervals to discuss and overcome the potential hazard including stray animals for safe aircraft operation.