

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1107  
( TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8th February 2024 )**

**CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS DUE TO FOG**

**1107. KUNWAR DANISH ALI  
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:  
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI  
DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether a large number of domestic and international flights of various public and private sector airlines are delayed/cancelled due to dense fog during the current winter season and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken any serious note of the flight disruptions due to fog during winter and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the losses incurred by various airlines as a result thereof, airline-wise during the last five years and the current year;**
- (d) whether large number of Delhi-bound flights were diverted due to unavailability of trained pilots to land during dense fog and if so, the total number of passengers who were severely affected during the year so far, airport-wise;**
- (e) whether there is a shortage of such trained pilots in the country who can fly under foggy condition and if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to obviate/minimise problems faced by various airlines in taking off and landing during dense fog conditions;**

**(g) the names of the airports which have installed CAT-IIIB system in the country at present; and**

**(h) the steps taken by the Government to ensure minimal cancellation/delays/diversion of flights during winters due to fog?**

### **ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION  
(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

**(a): Yes Sir, the total number of flights delayed and cancelled during January, 2024 is 8038 and 496 respectively.**

**;**

**(b): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducts meeting for preparedness of fog/low visibility operations for smooth flight operations with all the stakeholders before commencement of fog period and issues instructions in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)/ Circulars and Minutes of meeting on time to time basis.**

**;**

**DGCA imposed Financial penalties of Rs.30 lakhs each on M/s Spice jet and M/s Air India as they have failed to comply with instructions regarding rostering of pilot issued to airlines on Low Visibility Operations and Fog preparedness and also in violation of Para 4.4(b) of CAR section 8 series C Part 1 and Para 13 of AIC 11/2009.**

**(c): Details of losses incurred by various airlines due to flight disruptions during fog is not available.;**

**;**

**(d): The Delhi-bound flights were diverted due to crew not being qualified for low visibility operations. However, the details of passengers who were severely affected are not available.**

**(e): The number of pilots trained for CAT-III has shown an increase of 16% vis-a-vis the number as of October 2023. As on December 2023, total 6191 pilots (3744 P1/PIC (pilot in command) and 2447 P2( co-pilot)) have been trained in CAT II & CAT III.**

**(f): DGCA has instructed all the airlines to activate an EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM (WAR ROOM) at each metro airports manned by top managers who are authorised to take prompt decisions and address any unforeseen developments in the shortest possible time including any passenger complaints, take immediate steps for optimal movement of aircraft and provide adequate amenities for affected passengers in coordination with other stakeholders.;**

**;**

**Airports Authority of India (AAI) has implemented different categories of Instrument Landing System (ILS) at various airports. The feasibility study to equip all the runways at 06 metro airports is under progress.**

**;**

**(g): There are total 6 airports in India where Runway is certified for CAT III operations.**

**(i) Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**

**(ii) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport Lucknow**

**(iii) Jaipur International Airport**

**(iv) Sri Guru Ram Das Jee international Airport, Amritsar**

**(v) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata**

**(vi) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.**

**(h): DGCA has issued regulations which mandates the operators to ensure that all flight crew members should be qualified for take-off, instrument approaches and operations to the lowest CAT-I/II/III minima as applicable.**

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