

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1955
(To be answered on the 22nd September 2020)**

ACCIDENTS AT AIRPORTS

1955. SHRI SHANMUGA SUNDARAM K.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the passengers and the ground handling staff had a close save when AI-922 flight collided with the aerobridge at Mumbai airport and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the incident in Kochi airport where the plane skidded off the runway which resulted several casualties recently and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any inquiry over the incident and if so, the details of the findings thereof; and**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such accidents in future?**

ANSWER

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

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) M/s Air India B777 aircraft VT-ALG while operating flight AI 922 on 01.07.2016 had a collision with the aerobridge during taxi in to stand No. V-14 resulting in damage to left engine cowling.

The investigation of the incident revealed that the Visual Docking Guidance System for the Stand No. V-14 was unserviceable. Manual marshalling was done to guide aircraft for parking in the bay. The marshaller did not ascertain about the type of aircraft before commencing marshalling of the aircraft. He guided the aircraft beyond the stop point. The aircraft crossed its stop point and the engine came in contact with the Aerobridge resulting in damage to the engine cowling.

(b) M/s Air India Express Ltd aircraft B-737 reg VT-AXH was involved in an accident on 07.08.2020 at Kozhikode airport. Out of the total of 190 persons on board the aircraft, 21 persons (including the 2 pilots) succumbed to the injuries sustained in the accident.

(c) The Director General, Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)

under Rule 11 of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017 has appointed an Investigator-in-Charge assisted by other Investigators to inquire into the circumstances of the Air India Express accident at Kozhikode Airport on 7th August, 2020 by order dated 13.08.2020 and submit the report to AAIB preferably within five months from the date of order. The Investigator-in-Charge will determine the probable cause and contributory factors leading to this accident.

(d) The following safety measures have already been mandated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to avert such accidents:

(i) Mandatory provision of Runway End Safety Area (RESA) and its periodic maintenance as per ICAO requirements.

(ii) Emphasis on regular maintenance of the runway strip to prevent the soil erosion.

(iii) Mandatory friction testing at regular intervals.

(iv) Instructions have been issued for the Pilot Monitoring to identify the subtle incapacitation of the Pilot flying and procedure for taking over of the flight controls.

(v) For enhancing the operational safety, instructions have been issued for encouraging crew to go-around if for any reason, the approach is unstabilised and same is non-punitive.

(vi) Instructions have been issued for all the airline operators to establish the tail wind and cross wind limitations based on the aircraft manufacturer guidance taking into consideration the runway surface conditions and weather conditions.
