

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 552
(To be answered on the 28th November 2024)**

AIR TRAFFIC CONGESTION

**552. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN
SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री**

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to investigate the frequent delays and cancellations of flights across the country;**
(b) whether it is true that heavy congestion and a shortage of runways at airports causes significant delays and passengers have to wait for hours for their flights and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the measures proposed to be implemented by the Government to address air traffic congestion and improve runway availability to reduce flight delays; and
(d) the justification with the Government for high prices of flight tickets, particularly in light of increasing delays and deteriorating service?

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): Scheduled flights get sometimes delayed due to various reasons such as weather, technical and operational issues. In order to reduce inconvenience caused to the passengers as a result of the cancellations/delay of the flights, Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 3 Air Transport Series M part IV titled "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding cancellation of flights and delay in flights." DGCA periodically monitors the delay and cancellations of the flights and carries out inspection at various airports in the country on random basis to ensure compliance of laid down regulations. In case any airline is found in violation of the regulations, penal action, including financial penalty, is imposed.

In order to reduce traffic congestion, AAI has introduced five (05) NM

surveillance based horizontal separation in the airspace with surveillance coverage in India w.e.f. 01-01-2024, contributing to enhancing the airspace capacity. In addition, AAI has established Central Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) unit in Delhi with Flow Management Position Pan India.

ATFM monitors the traffic at different airports in India. Further, in whichever airport, it is anticipated that there is demand and capacity imbalance, ATFM unit takes action to resolve the situation by applying flow measures. The ATFM system is continuously being upgraded to meet challenges that are coming up with the air traffic growth.

To meet the requirements of Air traffic / passengers growth, development of New Airports, expansions/ modification of existing terminals, addition of new passenger facilities, New terminals, expansions / strengthening of existing runways, aprons, Air Navigation Services (ANS) work like control tower, technical block etc. is also taken up by respective airport operators/developers including Airports Authority of India(AAI) depending upon various factors such as land availability, viability of the airport, available financials, clearances from various regulatory authorities etc.

(d): The Government does not regulate the fares set by airlines - Indian or foreign. The fares on any route are dependent, inter-alia, on seasonality, holidays and festivals, cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel, competition and other similar factors. Airline pricing runs in multiple levels {buckets or RBDs} which are in line with the practice being followed globally and due to dynamic fare pricing, the tickets bought in advance are much cheaper than those purchased near the travel date. Under the provisions of Rule 135(1) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, the airlines are free to fix tariffs, having regard to all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristics of services, generally prevailing tariff etc. DGCA's Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) ensures that the fares being charged by the airlines are as per the tariff established by the airlines.
