

This is done by airlines by operating almost 1400 flights (including ferry flights). Further, Haj pilgrims from all over the world travel to KSA to perform Haj in this designated period. Hence, given the mammoth size of the operations, despite efforts made by all stakeholders, *i.e.* Ministry of External Affairs, Haj Committee of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the selected airlines, at times problem are encountered and some flights get delayed due to various reasons, like aircraft availability, weather conditions, airport congestion in Saudi Arabia etc. In Haj 2014 problems of delayed flights were encountered. However, the Haj 2015 operations have been smooth and efficiently carried out by airlines.

Inadequate Flight Operations Inspectors at International Airports

977. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had downgraded civil aviation sector for want of adequate flight operations inspectors at international airports of the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has also placed adequate flight operations inspections as per the norms of FAA; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) team had audited DGCA, India from 9-13 September 2013 under the 'International Aviation Safety Assessment Programme' (IASA) of the USA. One of the findings during the audit was "The DGCA does not have sufficient number of properly type-rated Operations Inspectors (Current and qualified) to address all aircraft makes and models operated by Air Operator Permit (AOP) holders".

To address the finding, Government created 75 posts of Flight Operation Inspectors (FOI's) on ad-hoc contract basis for three years in January, 2014. 52 Flight Operation Inspectors (FOI's) have been recruited so far. Consequent to this action, in April, 2015 India has regained the category I status.