

Grounding of fleet of aircrafts with neo engines

1289. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) how many aircrafts with neo engines operating flights in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there were demands to ground the entire fleet of aircrafts with neo engines; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) A total of 159 Airbus Neo aircraft are operating in the country which includes 122 aircraft fitted with Pratt and Whitney 1100 engines.

(b) and (c) Public Interest Litigation (PIL) No. 29/2018 was filed in the Honorable High Court of Mumbai for grounding the Neo aircraft fitted with PW1100G engines. The matter was disposed off by the Hon'ble Court on 12 June, 2018 with direction to DGCA to take all the necessary precautions for maintaining strict vigil on the aircraft operating this engine or any other engine.

A Civil Misc. application No. 44509/2017 and 15969/2019 has also been filed for grounding these Neo aircraft along with W.P.(C) No. 7409/2018 in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

Night landing facility at Thoothukudi Airport

1290. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has created night landing facilities for big aircrafts at Thoothukudi Airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (c) Night landing facility has been provided at Thoothukudi Airport. However, the runway length is not adequate to handle big aircraft. The Airports Authority of India has initiated process for augmentation of runway length of the airport from the existing 1350 x 30 meters to 3115 x 45 meters to make it suitable for bigger aircraft.