

Sensor related issues in boeing 737 (Max) planes

1914. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked airlines to check and correct possible sensor related issues in the Boeing 737 (Max) planes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the issue concerning sensor could cause the aircraft to lose altitude significantly;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the directive from the DGCA has come after a fatal air crash involving a Boeing 737 (MAX) 8 aircraft due to similar issues recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) No. 2018-23-51 effective 21.12.2018 on sensor related issues which was mandated by DGCA (Mandatory Modification no. DGCA/BOEING 737-8&9/01) for compliance on Indian registered Boeing 737 Max aircraft.

The AD has been issued in pursuance of the analysis performed by the manufacturer showing that if an erroneously high single angle of attack (AOA) sensor input is received by the flight control system, there is a potential for repeated nose down trim commands of the horizontal stabilizer. The AD has been issued to address the potential resulting nose down trim, which could cause the flight crew to have difficulty in controlling the airplane and lead to excessive nose down attitude, significant altitude loss and possible impact with terrain.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. DGCA has ordered grounding of entire Boeing 737 Max fleet and prohibited operation of the aircraft in Indian airspace on 13th March, 2019 in the aftermath of the accident of the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737-8.

Developing Airports in Small Cities

1915. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many airports in small cities have been developed and made operational by Government in the last two years;