

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;

- (b) whether flights from all these airports have started;
- (c) if not, which are the airports from where the regular flight is yet to start;
- (d) how much time will be taken to operationalise all these airports in small cities; and
- (e) what is the status of Pakyong airport which was inaugurated by Prime Minister on 24th September, 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) 39 airports (23 un-served and 16 under-served) in the country have been developed and operationalized in the last two years. The flight operations have commenced at these airports.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Pakyong airport is an operational airport and can handle ATR-72 and Q400 type of aircraft operations under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) conditions. M/s SpiceJet which were operating daily one scheduled flight on Kolkata-Pakyong-Kolkata sector have decided to temporarily suspend its operations w.e.f. 01.06.2019 due to unpredictable weather which results in low visibility at Pakyong.

Solar power plants at airports

1916. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is setting up solar power plants in airports across the country to meet their power needs;
- (b) the number of airports which have been selected in the first phase of establishment of solar plants;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is a great delay taking place in the process of establishment of solar plants at these airports, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to resolve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is setting up solar power plants at various airports for its captive power consumption based on the technical feasibility and capacity permissible under Net-Metering policy of the respective States.