

Modernisation of Thoothukudi airport

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

- (a) whether Government has started the work relating to modernisation and expansion of Thoothukudi airport (Tamil Nadu) after the handing over of required land parcel to Government by District Administration;
- (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) and (b) Government of Tamil Nadu has handed over 600.97 acres of land to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) Airport. AAI has awarded the work of Airport expansion including runway extension with Blast pad, Runway End Safety Area (RESA), Taxiway, Apron, Ground Support Equipment area, Isolation bay and associated works on 22.08.2019.

- (c) Does not arise in view of the above.

Safety audit

979. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether DGCA directed IndiGo to replace Pratt and Whitney (PW) engines of A320 neoplanes in view of frequent snags occurring in the engines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how many engines are at present used for flying in IndiGo and how many aircraft would be affected;
- (d) whether such malfunctions were found in any other airlines operating in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any special safety audit done for the safety of passengers; and
- (g) the details of steps taken for the safety and airworthiness of aircraft operating in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) In light of the recent cases of inflight shutdown in IndiGo fleet, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed the airline to replace all unmodified engines with modified engines by 31st Jan, 2020. Further, the airline has been asked to operate only those aircraft which have at least one modified engine installed.

The details of replacement of modified engines is given below:—

	Affected	Replaced	Remaining
M/s IndiGo Airlines	196	86	110

(c) At present, M/s IndiGo has a fleet of 247 aircraft with a total of 494 engines. Out of these 297 aircraft, 98 (A320-91, A321-07) aircraft are affected A320 Neo aircraft fitted with PW 1100G engines.

(d) and (e) M/s GoAir, which is also operating A320 aircraft fitted with PW 1100G engines, has not experienced any malfunction similar to those experienced on A320 NEO of IndiGo airlines. Based on the manufacturer recommendations, and to - address engine issues, the engines of GoAir are also being modified. Further, as a preventive measure, GoAir has also been directed to operate only those aircraft which have at least one modified engine installed.

(f) and (g) The Government has laid down Aircraft Rules, 1937 and Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) for the safety of airline operations in the country. DGCA ensures that the airlines before commencing operations adhere to these regulations.

Further, DGCA carries out regular surveillance/spot checks of the maintenance organisations/air operators at regular intervals for monitoring that the aircraft are maintained as per manufacturers' instructions and snags rectified before the aircraft is released for service. In case of violations, enforcement action is taken against the organisation/personnel responsible for the lapse. Based on incidents/accidents, DGCA at times also conducts special safety audits to verify that the operators/organisation continue to adhere to regulations for safety of aircraft operations and passengers.

Expenditure by Ministry

980. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: