GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Rajya Sabha

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.: 2413

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8th August 2022

FREQUENT MID-AIR TECHNICAL GLITCHES

2413. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of flights that reported technical glitches between 2021-22, airlinewise;
- (b) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been able to analyze the problem;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the inspection process undertaken by the DGCA post a technical glitch; and
- (e) whether any sanctions or suspensions are imposed on the airline by the DGCA, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) An aircraft may experience technical snags due to malfunctioning of components/ equipment fitted on the aircraft which require rectification by the airlines for continued safe, efficient and reliable air transport service. These technical snags are reported by the flight crew on receiving an aural/ visual warning in the cockpit or an indication of an inoperative/ faulty system or while experiencing difficulty in handling/ operating the aircraft. A total of 478 technical snags were reported in last one year w.e.f. 1st July 2021 - 30th June 2022. The airline-wise details are as under:

Airlines No. of Snags

Air India Fleet A 151

Air India Fleet B 33

Air India Express 10

Alliance Air 05

Vistara 40

Indigo 98

SpiceJet 77

Go Air 50

Air Asia 14

(b) to (d) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down regulations under Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) which requires that the aircraft is maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' guidelines and all snags reported on the aircraft are rectified before the aircraft is released for flight. Further, CAR 145 lays down the requirements for the approval of maintenance organisation which mandates the organisation to have required manpower, equipment and literature commensurate to the type and fleet to be maintained. Under the system, airline operators are required to ensure that the aircraft are maintained in a continuous state of airworthiness and all defects are rectified.

DGCA has a laid down mechanism of conducting surveillance, spot checks, night surveillance etc. of the airlines/ organizations and personnel to ensure safety of passenger and aircraft. The observations/ findings made during surveillance, spot checks and night surveillance are provided to the airline for taking corrective action. The action taken to correct the observations are reviewed and the findings are closed or in case of violations, DGCA takes enforcement action in accordance with laid down procedures which

may consist of warning, suspension, cancellation including imposition of financial penalty to the personnel involved/ airline. A total of 177 surveillance, 497 spot checks and 169 night surveillance have been carried out by DGCA on engineering and maintenance aspects of scheduled operators during the last one year (1st July 2021 - 30th June 2022).

(e) Based on the violations found during surveillance, spot checks, night surveillance carried out during 2021-22, enforcement action has been taken by DGCA against responsible personnel / post holder of the airline operator in 21 instances of violations, which inter-alia includes suspension of license, withdrawal of post holder (approved personnel to the airlines involved in the maintenance of aircraft), issuance of warning letters, etc. Recently, a show cause notice was issued to the M/s Spicejet Ltd. Based on the findings of various spot checks, inspections and reply to the show cause notice submitted by M/s Spicejet, for continued sustenance of safe and reliable air transport service, the number of departures of M/s Spicejet were restricted to 50% of the number of departures approved under Summer Schedule 2022 for a period of 8 weeks with effect from 27.07.2022.
