

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 665
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29th July 2024)**

**FREQUENT CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS FROM PAKYONG
AIRPORT**

665. **SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is frequent cancellation of flights to and fro Pakyong Airport of Sikkim particularly during monsoon season;
- (b) whether instead of cancelling the flights to and fro Pakyong Airport altogether from stations of departure during the raining season, flights can be rerouted to Bagdogra Airport to provide opportunity to the tourists and local people to avail air services without significant loss of time and money;
- (c) if so, the response of Government thereto; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) Pakyong Airport is licensed as a Visual Flight Rules (VFR) aerodrome which can sustain flight operation at or above 5kms of ground visibility. Visibility however plummets to 500 meters or below at the onset of monsoon and lasts till mid-August, during which flight operations under Visual meteorological conditions (VMC) conditions is affected.

(b) to (d): With repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation was totally deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate subject to the compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines(RDGs) issued by the Government and approval of schedule by DGCA. Hence, it is upto the airline operator to consider operating of air services to/from any city in the country depending on their operational & commercial viabilities.
