

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:380

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2007

MODERNISATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Delhi Airport`s grounded truth` appearing in the Hindustan Times on February 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the basic tool of Air Traffic Control (ATC), the communication system between ATCs and pilots are outdated and sometimes the aircraft radio picks up FM music channel instead of the pilot`s instructions; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The report primarily highlighted the inadequate infrastructure vis-a-vis increase in traffic which results in delays. The report is exaggeration of the factual position. The Airports Authority of (AAI) has implemented a new parallel taxiway and rapid exit taxiways for both the runways and also implemented simultaneous use of the two runways. This has reduced the delays for arrivals and departures and enhanced the runway capacity significantly to the maximum of about 40 movements per hour. The Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) has also initiated actions for constructions of additional runways and parking stands etc., to further enhance the capacity and to minimize delays.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. The ATC system and communication tools at IGI Airport, Delhi has been provided with the latest State-of-the-art VHF Transmitters and Receivers with Digital Voice Control System (VCS) for communication between the Controller and the Pilot. VHF Transmitters and Receivers installed on ground are regularly checked and maintained at optimum serviceable levels for operation.

With regard to reception of FM Music channel in the aircraft, it is stated that the equipments on board the aircraft are maintained by the concerned airlines.