

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1040
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2015
Animal Strike Incidents at Airports
Singh Dr. Bhola

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an increase in the number of stray animals entering runways of various airports in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents reported at various airports during the said period; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government/Airports Authority of India for prevention of such incidents and ensuring safety of aeroplanes and passengers?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) & (b) As per data available with DGCA, there has been an increasing trend in the number of incidents of stray animal entering the runways in years 2013 and 2014 as compared to year 2012. The year wise details of incidents of stray animal entering the runway are as follows:

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Year Incidents of stray animals entering the runway
2012 16
2013 28
2014 40
2015 (till 30th June, 2015) 10
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(c) Following steps have been taken to prevent incidents of stray animals entering the runways and to ensure the safety of aircraft from wildlife strike:

- (i) Provisions have been made in the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to make disposal of garbage in the open within 10 KMs of the airport as a cognizable offence.
- (ii) A core group has been set up consisting officers from DGCA, AAI, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Environment and Forest. This group will work as a Central Agency in the field of bird/wildlife prevention.
- (iii) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at every airport where scheduled flights operate, to identify sources of stray animals/bird attraction at the airport and take necessary steps for bird strike prevention.
- (iv) Regular joint inspection of the areas around the airport carried out by a team consisting of officers of DGCA and representatives of various airlines/stakeholders.
- (v) After the buffalo hit incident at Surat on 06th November, 2014, dedicated DGCA teams carried out aerodrome surveillance of 18 airports which were critical for wildlife hazard. Based upon the deficiencies recorded during these surveillance corrective actions were taken by the respective aerodromes.
