

IMPROVED WEATHER SERVICE IN INDIA IN AID OF CIVIL AVIATION.

From 1st November, 1949, the India Meteorological Department, in co-operation with the Civil Aviation Department, has started implementing the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation on procedures for meteorological services to air navigation in South East Asia Region. According to these procedures one meteorological office or other keeps a continuous watch of the weather along the route of a plane from the commencement to the termination of its flight and transmits to it all pertinent weather information required for its safety during flight. Aircraft also takes weather observations at specified points of the route during flight and transmits them through W/T channel to the nearest ground station.

It has also been arranged to broadcast at fixed times weather reports and forecasts for three-hour period from a number of important aerodromes in India. Four important aerodromes at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras are broadcasting collective weather reports of stations in their respective regions twice every hour on a 24 hr. basis while 28 other aerodromes are broadcasting their own reports only once every hour, mainly between dawn and dusk (0500-2100 hrs. IST). They are also broadcasting additional information about weather phenomena considered dangerous for flying (e.g. fog, thunderstorm, dust or sandstorm, squall, heavy rain etc.) whenever such phenomena occur.

Arrangements have also been made at all important aerodromes in India for collection of hourly weather reports and reports of dangerous phenomena of the neighbouring aerodromes for the purpose of supplying the latest weather information to pilots and other interests at those aerodromes.

The new procedures and the arrangements stated above have assured improved meteorological service to aviation in India.