

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1614
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st August 2022)

LACK OF SAFETY STANDARDS IN INDIAN AIR CARRIERS

1614. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that private airlines are failing to establish safe, efficient and reliable air service under the relevant Aircraft Rules;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been pointing out the lack of safety standards among Indian carriers for a long time;
- (c) if so, the reasons for ignoring the directions of the DGCA; and
- (d) the action being taken against the erring airlines so that the safety of air passengers and others is not compromised?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down regulations under Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR - M) 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. 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 of fleet to be maintained. Under the system, airlines are required to ensure that the aircraft are maintained in a continuous state of airworthiness and all defects are rectified.

(b) & (c) 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 observation are reviewed and the finding closed. 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.

(d) Based on the violations found during surveillance, spot checks, night surveillance, DGCA initiates enforcement action against the airlines/operator as per the procedure given in Enforcement policy and Procedures Manual (EPM) which includes warning, suspension, cancellation of approval/ licence including imposition of financial penalty. 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.
