

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1621
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st August 2022)**

ANNUAL SAFETY AUDIT BY DGCA

1621. SHRI SANJAY RAUT

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

- (a) the aims and objective of conducting the annual safety audit of all airlines by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);
- (b) the details of safety measures identified and circulated for implementation by the DGCA during safety audit conducted during each of the last five years;
- (c) the details of action taken by various implementing agencies on each of such safety measures so far; and
- (d) whether there are instances where implementing agencies failed to take action on safety measures and if so, the details of corrective steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) Annual Safety Audit is carried out to assess the compliance of national regulations, conditions of approval, certified licenses and approved procedures of the airlines. India is a contracting State to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (ICAO). Each contracting states is required to implement ICAO Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPs) laid down in various Annexes to the convention. To meet State obligations, the Directorate general of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down the national regulations in accordance with ICAO SARPs.

(b) & (c) The findings made during the safety audits are communicated to the concerned airline for taking necessary corrective actions and to mitigate the risk. Deficiencies that were identified and communicated to the airline operators for taking corrective measures during the last five years, included:

- (i) Delay in taking corrective action in case of outcome of the Flight Operation Quality Assurance (FOQA) exceedance data.
- (ii) Delay in reporting of the incidents/occurrences by the airlines.
- (iii) Few of the procedures in practice were not in compliance with manufacturer's recommended procedures.
- (iv) Less effective supervisory control to check the amendments of documents as

per latest applicable regulations and circulars.

(v) Ineffective supervision and internal auditing of operation/ maintenance activities.

(vi) All invoked Minimum Equipment List (MEL) items are not verified during internal audits.

(vii) The team composition for carrying out the internal audit is not as per the approved procedure.

(viii) Implementation of safety management system in the organization which ensure hazard identification, risk assessment and mitigation, documentation and safety promotion requires improvement.

Details of some of the actions taken by DGCA based on the safety audit findings during last five years include:

(i) In 2019 during Audit of M/s Spice Jet certain non-compliance and systematic deficiencies were observed regarding duties and responsibilities of post holders, DGCA approval for post holders of Chief of Flight Safety, Director Flight Training and Head of Operations were withdrawn.

(ii) In 2019 during audit of M/s Indigo, post holder Director, maintenance control center was removed and enforcement action was taken against the involved Aircraft Maintenance Engineers and Pilots.

(iii) In 2020 during audit of M/s Air Asia certain non-compliance and systematic deficiencies were observed regarding duties and responsibilities of post holders, Chief of Flight Safety and Head of Operations were suspended for a period of three months.

(iv) In 2021 during audit of M/s Star Air certain non-compliance to regulations was observed and a financial penalty of Rs 2.5 Lac was imposed.

(v) DGCA has issued an interim order to M/s SpiceJet on 27.07.2022, wherein for the continued sustenance of safe and reliable air transport service, the number of departures of M/s SpiceJet have been restricted to 50% of the number of departures approved under summer schedule 2022 for a period of 8 weeks from the date of issue.

(d) These are no such instance where DGCA has not taken action to ensure safety of operation.
