

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 14
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th July 2022)

INCREASING INSTANCES OF SAFETY ISSUES ON FLIGHTS

*14. SHRI SANJAY SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the increased instances of mishaps in flights of domestic carriers pertaining to safety of passengers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that these issues have arisen as the airlines are trying to raise their operations to that of the pre COVID-19 pandemic level at the cost of passengers' safety and comfort; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to protect the safety of the passengers and penalise the airlines?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 14 regarding "Increasing instances of safety issues on flights" to be answered on 18.07.2022.

(a) & (b) Occurrences involving air safety have been reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) by scheduled airlines during April-June 2022. All occurrences are mandatorily reported to DGCA which are then analyzed and the severity of the occurrence is determined. Based on the severity, these occurrences are classified and investigated and safety recommendations emanating from the investigation reports acted upon by the concerned stakeholders.

(c) The safety audit of all the airlines is regularly undertaken by DGCA. The audit findings are communicated to the operators for resolution. The deficiencies brought out by the audits have been addressed by the concerned stakeholders and strict enforcement action has been taken by DGCA for serious violations, particularly where passenger safety was involved.

(d) There is a systematic safety oversight process in place for monitoring the compliance of Rules and Civil Aviation Requirements by the airlines. This is a continuing process and includes surveillances, spot checks and regulatory audits embodied in Annual Surveillance Plan (ASP) of DGCA. The findings of safety oversight exercises are followed up with the concerned operator for compliance and the observations are closed only after due verification. Further, the compliance of the Action Taken by the operator is verified during the next audit/ surveillance. In case of any violations/ non-compliance to regulations detected during audit/ surveillance, enforcement action including financial penalty is imposed by the DGCA.

The details of oversight activities undertaken by DGCA during 2020-22 (till 30.06.2022) is at Annexure.

In response to part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question 14 regarding "Increasing Instances of Safety Issues on Flights".

The details of oversight activities undertaken by DGCA during 2020-22 (till 30.06.2022) is as under:

- DGCA issued Airworthiness advisory circular No. 03/2020 dated 09/4/2020. This AAC provides guidelines to Aircraft Operators for development of storage program and related procedures for preservation and de-preservation of an aircraft as an integral part of Aircraft Maintenance Program (AMP).
- In Year 2020, thirteen Special Audits and one Regulatory Audit was carried out, covering all the schedule airlines. The findings were followed up with the concerned airline for taking corrective actions on the findings.
- In Year 2021, twenty one special audit and twenty seven Regulatory Audit were carried out. The findings were followed up with the concerned airline for taking corrective actions on the findings. Based on the findings, financial penalty has been imposed on one of the scheduled airline.
- In Year 2022 till 30.06.2022, one special audit and nine regulatory audits have been carried out. Further, during the period 02.05.2022 to 06.06.2022, DGCA has carried out 300 spot checks and inspected 189 aircrafts of various scheduled airlines. Based on the deficiency observed, the aircrafts were grounded. It was ensured that the involved aircraft was released to service only after deficiencies were rectified.
- Following enforcement actions have been taken against organization/post holders of scheduled airlines:
 - In the Year 2021 based on the outcome of an investigation the dangerous goods approval of one of the scheduled airline was suspended for a period of one month.
 - In the year 2022, based on surveillance finding, enforcement action was taken against the DGCA post holder and financial penalty of ten lacs was imposed on the concerned airline regarding deficiency in the simulator training of the First officer.