

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1933
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7th August 2023)

UNAUTHORIZED USAGE OF EMERGENCY EXITS IN AIRCRAFTS

1933. MS. DOLA SEN

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

- (a) whether Government is taking any steps to enhance passenger awareness regarding the proper usage of emergency exits and to deter the increasing incidents of unauthorized openings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any initiatives are being considered to minimize the occurrences of mid-air emergency exit openings and ensure strict adherence to safety protocols on board aircraft; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (d): DGCA has already taken various steps regarding the proper usage of emergency exits, which are as follows:

1. Rule 29 of Aircraft Rules 1937 states that No person shall tamper with the aircraft or its equipment or commit any act likely to imperil the safety of an aircraft or its passengers or crew.
2. DGCA has issued CAR (Civil Aviation Requirements) Section 8 Series 0 Part VIII, which stipulates the guidelines for announcement, passenger briefing in-person and passenger safety briefing card regarding usage of emergency exit in the event of emergency.
3. Airlines describe the criteria and content for passenger safety briefing in their Safety and emergency procedure (SEP) manual regarding over wing/emergency exit, based upon guidance given under Cabin Safety Circular 1 of 2016.
4. Cabin crew members on board the aircraft brief the passengers regarding emergency exits during safety demonstration. In addition, passenger seated next to emergency exit is briefed in-person regarding operation of emergency exit in event of emergency in which a crew member is not available to assist.

5. A passenger safety briefing card is also provided in pictographic form at each passenger seat to supplement oral briefings, which also describes when and how to operate emergency exit.
