

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**  
**Rajya Sabha**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 34**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st July 2025**

**INCREASE IN HELICOPTER ACCIDENTS DURING THE CHAR DHAM YATRA**

**34. SHRI A. D. SINGH**

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in accidents involving helicopter during the Char Dham Yatra in recent years;**
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents reported, along with the reasons identified, during the last five years;**
- (c) whether any inquiry committees have been constituted to investigate these incidents and suggest safety measures, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) steps that are being taken by Government to enhance aviation safety, ensure strict compliance with DGCA norms, improve pilot training, and strengthen infrastructure in the Char Dham region to prevent future accidents?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION      (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)**

**(a) to (c): A total of 06 helicopter accidents were reported during the Char Dham Yatra in the last 05 years.**

**The year wise helicopter accidents during the char dham yatra are as under:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No of Accidents</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2025 (Till June)</b>	<b>4</b>

**Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) ordered investigation into these accidents under Rule 11 of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents & Incidents) Rules, 2017.**

**The investigation status is attached at Annexure 'A'.**

**(d): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed all the stakeholders to ensure compliance with safety norms for the Char Dham Yatra focusing on access control, improving parking arrangements, regulating slot allocations, enhancing pilot training, and ensuring strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).**

**In addition, the DGCA has initiated additional surveillance and safety audits of helicopter operations for the Char Dham Yatra.**

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## Annexure 'A'

S. No.	Details of Occurrence (Airline, Aircraft Type, Registration, Date, Place, etc.)	Probable Cause/ Contributing factors	Status of Investigation
<b>2021 - NIL</b>			
<b>2022</b>			
1.	M/s Aryan Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Bell 407, VT-RPN, 18.10.2022, Near Kedarnath	The accident was caused due to error of judgment on part of crew to correctly assess deteriorating weather situation for a safe take-off and flight. Fast descending clouds closed the departure path that may have been available to the preceding helicopter and VT-RPN impacted the ridge due to obscured visibility.	Investigation is completed. The report is available at <a href="http://www.aaib.gov.in">www.aaib.gov.in</a>
<b>2023</b>			
2.	M/s Kestral Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Agusta AW119 MK-II helicopter VT-RNK, 23.04.2023, Kedarnath	The accident occurred as the passenger while approaching for boarding from front right side suddenly moved towards the rear of the helicopter and came in contact with running tail rotors.  The following factors contributed to the accident: - - Safety briefing of passengers was not carried out before boarding as per SOP. - SOPs were not followed for escorting the passengers for embarkation.	Investigation is completed. The report is available at <a href="http://www.aaib.gov.in">www.aaib.gov.in</a>
<b>2024 - NIL</b>			

2025		
3.	M/s Aerotrans Service Pvt. Ltd., Bell 407, VT-OXF, 08.05.2025, Uttarkashi.	Investigation in progress
4.	M/s Pinnacle Air Pvt. Ltd. Airbus AS350B2, VT- KBS, 17.05.2025, Kedarnath.	Investigation in progress
5.	M/s Kestral Aviation Pvt Ltd. Leonardo AW119, VT-RNK, 07.06.2025, Sersi.	Investigation in progress
6.	M/s Aryan Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Bell 407, VT-BKA, 15.06.2025, Near Kedarnath.	Investigation in progress

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