GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Rajya Sabha

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.: 815 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th July 2025

SAFETY STANDARDS AND MAINTENANCE CHECKS

815. SHRI MILIND MURLI DEORA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that aircraft in the country typically undergo only one round of base checks compared to multiple checks in other countries such as the UAE;
- (b) the guidelines and oversight mechanism in place to ensure compliance with scheduled and unscheduled aircraft checks by Indian carriers; and
- (c) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducts regular audits of ground staff and technician protocols?

ANSWER

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

(a). All International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) member states across the world follow Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) / Manufacturer guidelines such as Manufacture Planning Document (MPD), Airworthiness Directives (ADs), applicable Service Bulletin (SBs) etc. for preparing Aircraft Maintenance Program (AMP) to maintain the aircraft.

Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR)-M specifies that organization / airline is required to maintain its aircraft as per the approved AMP, which is prepared based on MPD guidelines, Airworthiness Directives (ADs), applicable Service Bulletin (SBs) etc. As per MPD, the base maintenance includes C-checks and more comprehensive D-checks. The Base Maintenance Checks are done on an interval

defined in approved maintenance program of the organisation for each type of aircraft and based on aircraft hours flown/ calendar days.

(b) & (c): DGCA ensures compliance with both scheduled and unscheduled maintenance through a comprehensive regulatory framework.

DGCA conducts regular audits/ inspections of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMEs) and technicians to ensure adherence to safety procedures, training standards and technical protocols. During the following inspections/ audits, AMEs and technicians are also subjected to inspection to ensure adherence to safety procedures, training standards, and technical protocols:

- (i) Surveillance audits of Approved Maintenance Organizations (AMOs).
- (ii) Ramp inspections, documentation reviews, and on-the-spot checks.
- (iii) Spot checks.

Any non-compliance observed during these audits is addressed through corrective and preventive action plans, and where necessary, enforcement action is initiated as per regulatory provisions given in Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual (EPPM).
