

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 48
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st December 2025)**

DGCA OPERATING AT LESS THAN 50 PER CENT CAPACITY

48. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) the reasons for Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) operating at less than 50 per cent capacity for so long, especially amid rising air traffic and safety risks;
- (b) manner in which the lack of adequate manpower has impacted the frequency and quality of airline inspections, safety audits, and enforcement actions in recent years;
- (c) the measures undertaken by Government to bring DGCA operations in line with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards, and the impact of staffing shortages on international aviation safety bodies; and
- (d) whether there is any long-term roadmap to strengthen DGCA's institutional capacity, autonomy, and technical expertise so that it can act as a proactive safety regulator?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b) Keeping in view of current and future expansion of civil aviation sector, effective supervision and enhanced role of DGCA as a safety regulator, 441 posts have been created during last 3 years as a part of DGCA restructuring. Out of total 1630 sanctioned strength of DGCA, 829 posts are currently filled.

The shortfall has not impacted the surveillance plans of DGCA which are undertaken regularly as a part of Annual Surveillance Plan and published on the website of DGCA.

(c) & (d) The recruitment of Group 'A' officials is done through UPSC and of Group 'B' and 'C' through SSC. Further, all methods of recruitment are pursued

vigorously in order to ensure timely and continuous availability of requisite manpower. In situations where the post remain vacant due to various reasons like inadequate response to the advertisements, non-joining of selected candidates, persons with insufficient service in the feeder cadre for promotion, insufficient response to deputation posts etc. and to meet the requirement in the interregnum, efforts are made to recruit persons through short terms contractual hiring. Regular efforts are made to address and augment technical manpower shortage, enhanced training and succession planning.
