

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4012
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30th March 2026

**WORKFORCE, SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRAINTS IN
CIVIL AVIATION SECTOR**

4012. SMT PHULO DEVI NETAM

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

- (a) the year-wise number of vacancies reported by scheduled airlines and whether any assessment of shortage has been conducted since 2023;
- (b) the year-wise number of aircraft grounded due to technical defects or maintenance delays since 2023;
- (c) the year-wise number of safety violation notices issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) relating to Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms in since 2023; and
- (d) the State-wise number of airports operating above declared capacity and the number of operational airports with passenger utilisation below 25 per cent of capacity?

ANSWER

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

(a): There is no overall shortage of pilots or crew in the Indian aviation sector. However, there is a shortage of experienced commanders on certain aircraft types, which is being managed by employing foreign pilots under Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization (FATA).

(b): Aircraft grounded due to technical defects or maintenance delays were reported as 356 in 2023, 414 in 2024, 567 in 2025, and 99 in 2026 (as on 25.03.2026).

(c): M/s Air India was warned on 11 Aug 2025 for exceeding the stipulated Flying Time (FT) on Bangalore-London sectors of AI 171/AI 172 (May 2025).

(d): Passenger traffic at airports vary depending on several factors such as seasonal demand, festivals, holidays, and airline schedules. During peak travel periods, higher passenger footfall may be observed at some airports which could lead to temporary congestion. However, airport operators continuously monitor passenger traffic and take necessary operational measures to ensure smooth passenger facilitation and efficient airport operations.
