

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4020
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30th March 2026

SAFETY OVERSIGHT AND REGULATION OF CHARTER FLIGHTS

4020. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of concerns raised regarding inadequate safety standards and regulatory oversight in the charter and non-scheduled flight sector;
- (b) the number of safety violations, incidents and accidents involving charter operators reported during the last five years, operator-wise;
- (c) whether the DGCA has sufficient manpower and technical capacity to effectively regulate charter flight operators in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government propose to strengthen the regulatory framework, increase inspections, impose penalties as deterrents to ensure passenger safety in the charter aviation sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has a systematic safety oversight mechanism for monitoring compliance of Rules and Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) encompassing all aircraft and airport operators. The safety oversight process includes regulatory audits, night surveillances, ramp inspections, spot check and special audits. DGCA publishes Annual Surveillance Plan (ASP) on its website. Findings of audits, surveillances & spot checks are followed up with concerned operator for compliance. Further, the compliance of action taken by operator is verified during next audit/surveillance. In case of any violations/ non-compliance to regulations detected during audit/surveillance, enforcement action including financial penalty is imposed by DGCA.

The details regarding the safety violations, incidents and accidents involving charter operators reported during the last five-years are attached as Annexure.

The total number of sanctioned posts in DGCA is 1630. Out of 1630 posts, 441 posts have been created during the period 2022 to 2024 keeping in view of current and future expansion of civil aviation and enhanced role of DGCA as a safety regulator.

In last few months, as a part of recruitment exercise, 167 candidates have already been selected/recommended, out of which offer of appointments have also been issued to 106 candidates. Replacement of 42 candidates (Airworthiness Officers) from reserve panel has been requested from UPSC. DR Proposal for 82 posts of different technical cadres for vacancy year 2026 has been sent to UPSC.

Recruitment in DGCA is a continuous process. To meet requirements in the interregnum, vacancies are managed by recruiting persons through short terms contractual hiring. Further, the shortfall in manpower has not impacted the safety functions of DGCA.

General Safety Circular 01/2025 dated 19.06.2025, has been implemented for comprehensive special audit to assess aviation ecosystem and strengthen aviation safety architecture.

DGCA has also issued General Safety Circular 02/2025 dated 11.12.2025 on advance preparedness and timely compliance of specific regulations.

In addition, a total of 29 Special Audits have been carried out in year 2026 as per the risk perceived.

ANNEXURE

Details of Safety Violations reported (involving charter operators) during the last five years are as follows:-

Year	Total
2021	05
2022	09
2023	27
2024	29
2025	46

Details of Accidents reported (involving charter operators) during the last five years are as follows:-

Year	Chartered (NSOP Fixed Wing)	Helicopters
2021	02	Nil
2022	00	03
2023	02	02
2024	00	03
2025	01	04

Details of Incidents reported (involving charter operators) during the last five years are as follows:-

Year	Total
2021	00
2022	02
2023	03
2024	01
2025	02
