

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 986

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9th February 2026

SAFETY RISKS FACED BY REGIONAL AND SMALLER AIRPORTS

986. SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA

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

(a) whether Government has assessed the safety risks faced by regional and smaller airports, particularly in eastern and coastal States, due to terrain, weather conditions or infrastructure gaps;

(b) if so, the steps taken to address these risks, including measures for strengthening safety audits, emergency preparedness, pilot training and operational safety standards at non-metro and regional airports; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issues airport license after satisfactory compliances to the requirements specified in Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 4, Series B, Part I and Section 4, Series F, Part I. Aerodrome operators are responsible to maintain airports in fit state during the validity of aerodrome license and the same is ensured by DGCA through regular surveillance inspections.

Further, any safety risk arising due to natural reasons such as terrain are required to be identified and mitigated by the aerodrome operator through Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) processes, in accordance with the Safety Management System (SMS) framework prescribed by DGCA, to ensure safe aircraft operations.

CAR section 4 Series B Part I, Para 9.1.14 mandates provision of specialist rescue services in case of emergency for aerodromes located close to water and/or swampy areas of difficult terrain.

Further, DGCA has issued Operation Circular OC 02/2012 pertaining to Route and Aerodrome Competence Qualification and, OC 01/2014 which provides guidelines for

operations to and from airports with performance limited conditions. These circulars outline the applicable training requirements, specific considerations for flight crew, policy recommendations and the required risk assessment and mitigation measures.
