

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.212
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024**

SAFETY OF PARAGLIDERS IN BIR-BILLING

212 SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bir-Billing in Himachal Pradesh is a renowned paragliding destination for paragliders from around the world;**
- (b) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the number of deaths while paragliding in Bir-Billing Himachal Pradesh;**
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) the total number of deaths recorded while paragliding in Bir-Billing during the last five years; and**
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase safety of paragliders in Bir-Billing Himachal Pradesh?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): Yes, Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh has conveyed that 09 deaths have been reported w.e.f. 2020 to 19.07.2024 in Tandem and solo Flights. Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that the cause of deaths is crash of paragliders.

The development and promotion of tourism, including adventure tourism, enhancing safety and convenience at adventure tourism sites is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

However, in order to minimize the risk associated with adventure activities and for the safety of the tourists, the Ministry of

Tourism along with the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) has launched the “Indian Adventure Tourism Guidelines (Version 2.0) – 2018” on 'Safety and Quality Norms for Adventure Tourism in India'. The guidelines list the basic minimum standards for adventure tourism and covers 31 verticals involving the land, air and water-based activities. All the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to adopt and implement these Guidelines.

Ministry of Tourism has also formulated National Strategy for Adventure Tourism. One of the key strategic pillar of the National Strategy is strengthening adventure tourism safety management framework.

Further, Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh has conveyed that the following steps have been taken by them:

- Marshals have been deployed at Take-off and landing sites.**
- Take-off and landing sites have been improved from the safety point of view.**
- All the protocols of H.P. Aero Sports Rules, 2022 are ensured by the District Technical Committee.**
- Random inspections are conducted by the Technical Committee for ensuring the safety of the paragliders.**
