

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Lok Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 513
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th November 2024)
PENALTY TO AIRLINES

513. SHRI EATALA RAJENDER
SMT D K ARUNA
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the DGCA has imposed fines on Air India and other airlines during the last 10 years for flawed pilot pairings that included trainee pilots on flight in some sectors and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the penalties imposed/collected from various airlines in the matter during the last 10 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the regulator didn't go into the detailed investigation despite finding several lapses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective steps being taken to avoid such incidents in future?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): During last 10 years, Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed fines on Air India for a flawed pilot pairing that included trainee pilots on flights in some sectors. Details are as follows;;

(i) DGCA imposed the penalty of Rupees Six lakhs on the Director Operations, M/s Air India on 23.08.2024.

(ii) DGCA imposed the penalty of Rupees Three Lakhs on the Director Training, M/s Air India. Additionally, a Six-month suspension order was issued to the Director Training, M/s Air India on 23.08.2024.

(iii) DGCA imposed the penalty of Rupees Ninety Lakhs on the Accountable Manager, M/s Air India on 23.08.2024.;

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(c) & (d): No Sir. DGCA has undertaken detailed investigations including examination of documentation & spot check of M/s Air India scheduling facility on 11th July, 2024.;

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(e): DGCA has taken the following steps to avoid such incidents in future;;

(i) The operators' pilot scheduling system has been reviewed and the operator Air India has been advised to initiative immediate corrective action to avoid pairing of a trainee pilot with a normal pilot. The operator was directed to put in place additional check and balances to avoid such mistakes. The operator has initiated adequate steps under the guidance of DGCA. Such steps include;;

1. Enhanced oversight of scheduling activities by senior managers,

2. Software lock to prevent junior rostering staff from overriding system restrictions and

3. Publication of advisory to crew to be watchful for such mistakes.;

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These steps are aimed at prevention of such mistakes in future.;

(i) DGCA has sent a strong message by imposing penalties and suspending a key post holder. This is to ensure that operator took the above corrective actions on priority.;

(ii) DGCA continues to monitor the operations of all operators including Air India by way of audits, surveillances and spot checks.

The scheduling system is regularly being checked as part of such oversight, so as to prevent future errors.
