

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 597
(To be answered on the 28th November 2024)**

POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR VTOL AIRCRAFT

597. SHRI M K RAGHAVAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to roll out a policy and establish regulatory framework for Vertiports and the safe operation of Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) Aircraft or Air Taxis across the country, particularly for urban air mobility and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the manner in which the Government plans to integrate VTOL aircraft into existing airspace management system of the country while ensuring safe and efficient coordination with conventional aircraft operations;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any mechanism for certification and operational standards for VTOL Aircraft or Air Taxis and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to work with international aviation bodies to align these standards with global best practices and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): With regard to the safe operation of Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) aircraft across the country, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken the following steps:

- 1. Guidance Material on Type Certification of vertical take-off and landing capable aircraft (VCA) has been issued.**
- 2. Guidance material for Design, Operation and Authorisation of Vertiports has been issued.**
- 3. The ICAO has established the Advanced Air Mobility Study Group in light of rapid technological advances of new entrants and the potential impact on the aviation ecosystem. In tandem to that DGCA has also constituted internal working groups for studying other aspects related to operation of E-VTOL to assess and develop appropriate regulations/ requirements suitable for India.**

(b): The regulatory framework needs to be developed, which will involve creating new rules and standards for VTOL operations, including airworthiness, pilot certification, and operational procedures. Based on the regulatory framework the Vertiports, air routes and other necessary infrastructure essential for VTOL operations for their take-off and landing sites will have to be established. The operations will have to be planned to optimise air traffic flow within the existing airspace management system.

(c): Guidance Material on Type Certification of vertical take-off and landing capable aircraft (VCA) has been issued.

(d): Yes, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between European Union Safety Agency (EASA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on 4th July, 2023 that focuses on collaboration on unmanned aircraft and innovative air mobility between the two civil aviation authorities. In addition, DGCA has also established collaboration with ICAO, FAA & APAC (CAA Singapore) in this matter.
