

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
Lok Sabha**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 803  
( TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th July 2025 )**

**REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENCES**

**803. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any formal policy/regulatory framework for the issuance of licences to scheduled airline operators in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the eligibility criteria, procedures and the list of documents or papers required to apply for a Scheduled Operator's Licence (SOL);**
- (c) the number of airlines that have been granted scheduled operating permits in the country since 1980 along with the name of each airline, their ownership details and the year of commencement of operations;**
- (d) the number of airlines currently operational and the number of the airlines that have ceased operations along with the year of closure in each case; and**
- (e) the year in which licences were granted to Deccan Airlines and Kingfisher Airlines respectively along with the duration of their operations and the reasons, if any, officially recorded for the discontinuation of their services?**

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (b) : Details regarding the regulatory framework for the issuance of licences to scheduled airline operators in the country is at Annexure-I.;**

**(c) to (d): The number of airlines granted scheduled operating permits in the country since 1980, along with information on currently operational airlines and those that have ceased operations, is at Annexure-II.**

**(e) : Deccan Aviation and Kingfisher Airlines were granted scheduled operator permits in the year 2003 and 2005 respectively.**

**Deccan Aviation Ltd was acquired by Kingfisher Airlines Ltd, and subsequently in 2008, the company Kingfisher Airlines Ltd was merged into Deccan Aviation Ltd, and the merged airline was renamed as Kingfisher Airlines Ltd.**

**The scheduled operator permit in respect of Kingfisher Airlines Ltd was suspended w.e.f. 20th October, 2012 for their non-adherence to approved flight schedules and abrupt cancellation of flights in the preceding 10 months and failing to re-establish a safe, efficient and reliable air transport service.**

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**Regulatory Framework for issuance of licences to Scheduled airline operators**

1. The Air Operator Certificate (AOC) for Scheduled Air Transport Service is granted by DGCA under the provision of Rule 134 and Schedule XI of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. As per the provisions of Schedule XI of the Aircraft Rules 1937, AOC for under taking Scheduled Air Transport Service can be granted to:
  - (i) to a citizen of India, or*
  - (ii) to a company or a body corporate provided that—*
    - (a) it is registered and has its principal place of business within India;*
    - (b) the Chairman and at least two-thirds of its Directors are citizens of India; and*
    - (c) its substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian nationals.*
2. Further, any applicant desirous of obtaining AOC is required obtain a No Objection Certificate for his proposed air transport services from the Central Government, which is granted by Ministry of Civil Aviation after ensuring the laid down eligibility requirements, as well as taking into account the factors such as the financial soundness of the applicant, his operational plan, the clearance from security angle of the applicant organisation including its Directors, and any other factor that may have a bearing on the proposed air transport services from policy angle.
3. The no objection certificate granted by the Central Government remains valid for a period of three years from the date of issue, during which the applicant is expected to obtain the AOC from DGCA after complying the laid down requirements.
4. DGCA grants Air Operator Certificate after ensuring the compliance of relevant regulatory requirements as per Air Operator Certification Manual, which follows a structured 5 phase process for grant of AOC by DGCA so as to ensure that the applicant has the required capability to provide safe, efficient and reliable service.
5. The AOC is valid for a period of 5 years and is renewed for a further period of 5 years after ensuring that the operator is in continued compliance of the relevant regulatory requirements as per procedure laid down in Air Operator Certification Manual.
6. List of documents or papers required to apply for a Scheduled Operator's Licence
  - i. Initial NOC issued by Ministry of Civil Aviation
  - ii. Formal Application Appendix-A, B, C of CAP3100/CAP3300/CAP34000 as applicable along with requisite fees.
  - iii. Nomination of post holders
    - Accountable Manager
    - Director Flight Operation
    - Director Training
    - Chief Pilot(s)
    - Continuing Airworthiness Manager (CAM)
    - Quality Manager
    - Manager In-Flight
    - Chief Security Officer (CSO)

- Chief of Flight Safety
- SMS Manager / Safety Manager

iv. List of Manuals

- Operations Manual
- Aircraft Flight Manual
- FDTL Scheme
- Normal & Emergency Procedure Checklist
- Safety & Emergence Procedure (SEP) Manual
- Cabin Crew Training Manual
- Quick Reference Handbook
- Passenger Briefing Card
- Dangerous Goods Manual (If Applicable)
- Flight Dispatch Manual
- Ground Handling Manual
- Load and Trim Sheet
- Continuing Airworthiness Management Exposition (CAME)
- Minimum Equipment List (MEL)/Configuration Deviation List (CDL)
- Aircraft Maintenance Program (AMP)
- Technical Log Book
- Weight Schedule/ L & T Sheet
- Flight Safety Documentation System Manual
- Flight Safety Manual
- Safety Management System Manual

## Annexure-II

### Number of airlines that have been granted scheduled operating permits in the country since 1980

S. No.	Name of the Airlines	Year of Commencement	Current Status
1.	Air India Ltd.	Prior to 1994, there were only 2 Scheduled Airlines namely Air India and Indian Airlines established under the provisions of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, which was repealed vide the Air Corporations (transfer of undertakings and repeal) Act. 1994.  The two airlines were merged in 2007, eventually creating a single airline Air India Ltd.	
2.	Indian Airlines Ltd.		
3.	East West Travels & Trade Link Ltd.	1994	Closed in the year 1996
4.	Archana Airways Ltd.	1994	Closed in the year 2000
5.	Skyline NEPC Ltd.	1994	Closed in the year 1997
6.	Modiluft Ltd.	1994	Closed in the year 1996
7.	NEPC Micon Ltd.	1994	Closed in the year 1997
8.	Jet Airways (India) Ltd.	1995	Closed in the year 2019
9.	Jet Lite (I) Ltd. (Formally known as Sahara Airlines)	1996	Closed in the year 2019
10.	Alliance Air Aviation Ltd. (Formerly known as Airline Allied Services Ltd.)	1997	Operational
11.	Lufthansa Cargo India Pvt. Ltd.	1997	Closed in the year 2000
12.	Deccan Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	2003	Acquired by Kingfisher followed by merger of Kingfisher into Deccan Aviation in 2008, and the merged entity was renamed as Kingfisher Airlines. Closed in the year 2012.
13.	Blue Dart Aviation Ltd. (Cargo)	2003	Operational
14.	Air India Express Ltd. (Formerly known as Air India Charters Ltd.)	2005	Operational
15.	Kingfisher Airlines Ltd.	2005	Merged into Deccan Aviation in 2008.
16.	Spice Jet Ltd.	2005	Operational
17.	Paramount Airways	2005	Closed in the year 2010

S. No.	Name of the Airlines	Year of Commencement	Current Status
18.	Go Airlines (India) Pvt. Ltd.	2005	Closed in the year 2023
19.	InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.	2006	Operational
20.	Indus Airways Pvt. Ltd.	2006	Closed in the year 2007
21.	MDLR Airlines Pvt. Ltd.	2008	Closed in the year 2009
22.	Jagson Airlines Ltd.	2008	Closed in the year 2008
23.	Deccan Cargo & Express Logistics Pvt. Ltd.	2009	Closed in the year 2014
24.	Aryan Cargo Express.	2010	Closed in the year 2011
25.	Quickjet Cargo Airlines Pvt. Ltd.	2012	Closed in the year 2017
26.	Religare Aviation Ltd. (Regional)	2012	Closed in the year 2017
27.	LEPL Projects Ltd. (Air Costa)	2013	Closed in the year 2017
28.	Air Asia (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Name changed to AIX Connect Pvt. Ltd. )	2014	Merged into Air India Express Ltd. w.e.f. 01.10.2024
29.	Tata Sia Airlines Ltd. (Vistara)	2014	Merged into Air India Ltd. w.e.f. 12.11.2024
30.	Air Pegasus Pvt. Ltd.	2015	Closed in the year 2016
31.	Turbo Megha Airways Pvt. Ltd. (Trujet)	2015	Closed in the year 2022
32.	Air Carnival Pvt. Ltd.	2016	Closed in the year 2017
33.	LEPL Projects Ltd. (Air Costa)	2016	Closed in the year 2017
34.	Zexus Air Services Pvt. Ltd. (Zoom Air)	2017	Closed in the year 2024
35.	Deccan Charters Pvt. Ltd. (Air Deccan)	2017	Closed in the year 2020
36.	Air Odisha Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	2018	Closed in the year 2020
37.	Ghodawat Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. (STAR AIR)	2019	Operational
38.	Heritage Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	2019	Closed in the year 2022
39.	Pawan Hans Ltd. (SCO)	2019	Closed in the year 2024
40.	Big Charter Pvt. Ltd. (Fly Big)	2020	Operational
41.	Aviation Connectivity Infrastructure Developers Pvt. Ltd. (Air Taxi)	2020	Closed in the year 2023
42.	SNV Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (Akasa Air)	2022	Operational
43.	Quickjet Cargo Airlines Pvt. Ltd.	2022	Operational
44.	GSEC Monarch and Deccan	2022	Operational

S. No.	Name of the Airlines	Year of Commencement	Current Status
	Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (IndiaOne Air)		
45.	Just Udo Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (Fly 91)	2024	Operational