

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 149

(To be answered on the 29th January 2026)

COMPLIANCE OF REGULATIONS BY AIRLINES

149. MS. MAHUA MOITRA

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Civil Aviation Minister's acknowledgement of the need for five airlines in the Indian civil aviation sector amounts to a major policy failure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps proposed by the Government in the short and medium term to address this policy failure;
- (c) the number of airlines that have exited the market or gone bankrupt since 2014 despite growth in passenger traffic along with the reasons therefor; (d) whether the Government is aware that the relaxation of regulations during the recent civil aviation crisis risks entrenching the duopoly in the sector; and (e) if so, the details thereof along with the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that airlines comply with the regulations at the earliest?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

- (a) and (b): The Indian civil aviation sector has demonstrated strong and sustained growth, supported by an expanding airport network, rising passenger traffic and significant fleet orders placed by incumbent airlines. This reflects the long-term potential of the market to support additional capacity, including the possibility of multiple large carriers, subject to commercial viability. There are no regulatory entry barriers for new airlines. Any company desirous of commencing airline operations may approach the Ministry of Civil Aviation with its proposed business plan for obtaining an initial No Objection Certificate (NOC), subject to compliance with applicable regulations.

(c): A total of 13 airlines have exited the market or gone bankrupt since 2014 due to various reasons such as non-availability of aircraft, financial issues and airlines internal issues etc. Further, Air Asia (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Name changed to AIX Connect Pvt. Ltd.) has merged with Air India Express Ltd., and Tata Sia Airlines Ltd. (Vistara) merged into Air India Ltd.

(d) and (e): The DGCA granted a one-time temporary exemption to M/s IndiGo (valid until 10 February 2026) to stabilize operations amid large-scale flight disruptions that stranded passengers, strictly in public interest without compromising safety. A four-member committee was constituted to investigate the disruptions. Subsequently, enforcement action was taken, including a penalty of Rs 22.2 crore and a 10% reduction in the approved flight network, with the freed-up flights redistributed to other operators.

The DGCA has implemented strengthened measures to ensure strict compliance by airlines with regulations. These include submission of weekly and fortnightly reports on critical operational and manpower parameters, preparation of a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to maintain operational stability and comply with revised FDTL provisions, bi-monthly inspections by the DGCA's Principal Point-of-Contact Inspector to review operations, and continuous monitoring of roster integrity, crew availability, buffer adequacy, system robustness, and adherence to FDTL requirements.
