

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4450
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026)

SAFETY NORMS FOR AIR PASSENGERS

4450. DR. D. PURANDESWARI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is aware that aircraft operated by a private airline recently lost a wheel mid-air during flight, raising concerns regarding passenger safety, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the regulatory checks by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) could not detect the lapses in aircraft maintenance and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DGCA's decision to defer revised pilot fatigue rules has compounded safety risks, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to balance airline profitability with strict enforcement of safety and fatigue norms; and

(e) whether any accountability mechanisms are available to prevent recurrence of such safety violations, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): M/s Spicejet aircraft VT-SQB on 12.09.2025 while operating flight SEJ-2906 from Kandla- Mumbai was reported loss of RH outboard main wheel during takeoff. The aircraft landed safely at Mumbai. The occurrence is classified as incident under Rule 13(1) of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2025 and being investigated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

DGCA issues the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) to the airline on compliance with laid down Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) which requires the airline to have organised maintenance structure for maintaining the aircraft in a continuous state of airworthiness.

DGCA ensures that the airline and the maintenance organisation continue to comply with the regulatory requirements through a system of regulatory audits, night surveillances, ramp inspections, spot check and special audits etc. In case of non-compliances and discrepancies observed during regulatory checks or defect/ lapses observed during maintenance and operation of aircraft, DGCA ensures that corrective action is taken by the airline/maintenance organisation before releasing the aircraft for flight operation.

The CAR related to Flight Duty Time limitations (FDTL) is in force with limited variations given to airlines based on type and nature of operations subject to Safety Risk Assessment (SRA). No compromise is allowed while enforcing safety and fatigue norms. Further, two audits in the area of FDTL of all airlines in July, 2025 to August, 2025 and December, 2025 to February, 2026 have been carried out.

Further, DGCA has issued General Safety Circular 02/2025 dated 11.12.2025 on Advance Preparedness and Timely Compliance of Specific Operating Regulations.
