

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 429
(To be answered on the 25th February 2016)**

PERSONS IN AIRCRAFT COCKPIT

429. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has made it mandatory for Indian Carriers to have two fully conscious persons in cockpit at all times;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an aircraft winging its way from Mumbai to Brussels suddenly lost altitude over Turkish airspace; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) to (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has made it mandatory for Indian carriers to have two fully conscious persons in the cockpit at all times. DGCA has issued an Air Safety Circular 03/2010, in this regard, which requires as follows:

(i) In case one pilot leaves the flight deck, cabin crew shall be in the flight deck and will occupy one of the observer seat.

(ii) The cabin crew shall remain in the flight deck till such time the flight deck crew members returns to the flight deck.

(c) to (d) On 08.08.2014, an M/s Jet Airways B777 aircraft VT-JEL while operating flight from Mumbai to Brussels descended from its assigned altitude. The incident was investigated by Inquiry Officer appointed by the DGCA under Rule 13 (1) of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2012.

The incident was caused as First Officer while updating the heading information inadvertently entered the heading information in the altitude window of Auto Pilot System and activated it. The involved First Officer was grounded and given necessary corrective training before resuming her normal flying duties.
