

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1480
(To be answered on the 13th February 2025)**

LAPSES FROM AIRLINES ON FLAWED PILOT PAIRING

1480. PROF. SOUGATA RAY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government/DGCA has noticed instances of lapses from various airlines on flawed pilot pairing;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, airline-wise;**
- (c) the details of action taken so far to control/check such instances; and**
- (d) whether the Government/DGCA has any mechanism to check such instances and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): During the last five years one incident has been noticed by DGCA on flawed pilot pairing. Details are as follows:

M/s Air India has reported a serious scheduling incident vide email dated 10.07.2024 regarding the non-line released trainee first officer paired with a non-trainer line captain pilot to operate AI 921 dated 09.07.2024 on Bombay to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Airport flight.

DGCA has imposed fines on M/s Air India for flawed pilot pairing. Details are as follows:

- 1. DGCA imposed the penalty of Rupees Six Lakhs on the Director Operations, M/s Air India on 23.08.2024.**
- 2. DGCA imposed the penalty of Rupees Three Lakhs on the Director training, M/s Air India. Additionally, a six-month suspension order was issued to the Director training, M/s Air India on 23.08.2024.**

3. DGCA imposed the penalty of Rupees Ninety Lakhs on the Accountable manager, M/s Air India on 23.08.2024.

DGCA already has a system of annual surveillance program (ASP) which includes en-route surveillance/ Regulatory audits/ Spots checks/ unplanned inspection/Night Surveillance checks/ Quality assessment checks/ cross regional checks/ Main base inspections, etc. to ensure continuing organizational, as well as individual professional competency of license/ rating/ certificate/ approvals.

Annual surveillance program is risk based oversight surveillance plan, prepared by determining the types of inspections necessary, number of enforcement action taken and the frequency of those inspections.
