



OIL & NATURAL GAS CORPORATION (W.O.U.) KARMACHARI SANGHATANA

AFFILIATED TO - PETROLIUM & GAS WORKERS' FEDERATION OF INDIA

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Website : www.ksmumbai.com

REF. : ONGC/KS/ 67/20 25

DATE : 23/07/2026

To,
The ED - Chief Corporate Logistics
ONGC-WOU,
11 High,
Sion-Bandra Link Road,
Sion,
Mumbai - 400 017

Sub: Concern Regarding Repeated Technical Failures Of Bell 412 Helicopter VT-RRI, Subsequent Replacement Of The Aircraft & The Need For Long-Term Measures To Ensure Safe Offshore Helicopter Operations.

Respected Sir,

We are in receipt of a serious complaint dated **18th July 2026** from employees posted at the **Sagar Jyoti** highlighting repeated technical failures of **Bell 412 Helicopter VT-RRI**. The representation referred to several instances of **technical malfunctions, precautionary returns, prolonged maintenance, operational disruptions & the increasing apprehension** among offshore employees regarding the continued deployment of the same helicopter for crew change operations.

Recognizing the seriousness of these concerns, the Union immediately brought the matter to the Head Air Logistics. We appreciate that, following our representation, the helicopter deployed for Sagar Jyoti crew change operations was replaced with **VT-RRF**. This prompt action has helped restore the confidence of offshore employees & reflects the management's commitment to ensuring the safety of personnel.

While the immediate replacement of the helicopter is a welcome step, the Union believes that the issue warrants a broader & more comprehensive review. The recurrence of technical defects indicates the need to strengthen preventive measures relating to helicopter deployment, maintenance standards & operational contingency planning so that similar situations do not arise in the future.

In the interest of ensuring the highest standards of safety for offshore personnel, we request the management to consider the following measures:

1. **Conduct a comprehensive technical investigation** into the repeated technical failures of Bell 412 Helicopter **VT-RRI** & review the effectiveness of the corrective actions implemented.

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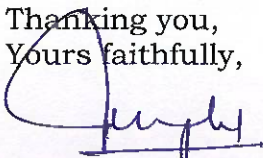
2. Ensure that only **fully serviceable, technically reliable & airworthy helicopters** are deployed for offshore crew transportation.
3. **Establish a robust standby helicopter** arrangement to avoid disruption of crew change operations whenever an aircraft is grounded due to technical reasons.
4. **Periodically share relevant safety-related information** & significant corrective measures with employee representatives to enhance transparency & strengthen the confidence of offshore personnel.
5. **Review & further strengthen maintenance quality assurance** & certification procedures to ensure that helicopters released after maintenance consistently meet the highest standards of operational reliability & safety.

The safety of employees must remain the foremost priority. Offshore personnel operate under demanding environmental conditions & depend entirely on the reliability of the helicopters provided for their transportation. They should, therefore, have complete confidence that every aircraft deployed for offshore operations has been subjected to the highest standards of maintenance & safety assurance.

Therefore, we request the management to examine this matter with the seriousness it deserves & take appropriate long-term preventive measures to further strengthen the safety & reliability of offshore helicopter operations.

We look forward to your positive response & assures the management of its full cooperation in promoting safe, reliable & efficient offshore operations.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,


(Pradeep Mayekar)
General Secretary



Copy to:

- Handwritten: Vm.*
1. ED Chief - HR Services, ONGC-WOU, NBP Gr.Hts ,BKC,Bandra (E), Mum-51
 2. GGM – Head Air Logistics, ONGC-WOU, Juhu Helibase, Vile Parle, Mum – 58
 - Handwritten: Hote* 3. GM-I/c IR, ONGC-WOU, NBP Green Hts., BKC, Bandra (E), Mumbai -51
 4. Shri.Vir Vikram Yadav, Director General, Udaan Bhavan (UB), Safdarjung
Airport, New Delhi – 110 003.
 5. Smt.Suvrita Saxena, DDG,I.O. Office Complex, New Airport Colony,
Vile Parle (E), Mumbai – 400 099.

To,
Head Air Operations
ONGC
Mumbai

Subject: URGENT SAFETY CONCERN – Repeated Technical Failures of Helicopter Bell 412 (Registration: VT-RRI, of GVHL) and Immediate Requirement for an Alternative Aircraft

Sir,

I wish to bring to your immediate attention a matter of grave concern regarding the continued deployment of helicopter **VT-RRI** for crew change operations between Surat and Sagar Jyoti.

On **18 July 2026**, VT-RRI departed Surat with five passengers on board but was compelled to return shortly after take-off due to a technical malfunction. While the flight landed safely, the incident highlights an unacceptable level of operational risk.

This is **not an isolated event**. It is the **second occurrence of an emergency return shortly after take-off** involving the same helicopter. Furthermore, the aircraft remained **grounded from 22 June to 24 June 2026 due to technical problems**, and again underwent maintenance from **13 July to 16 July 2026** before returning to service. After completing only four sorties following this maintenance, the helicopter experienced another technical failure on its fifth scheduled sortie. Such repeated failures immediately after maintenance raise serious concerns regarding the aircraft's reliability and airworthiness. Continuing to deploy this helicopter for offshore crew transportation creates a situation that could result in a serious accident.

Our Concerns Are Supported by Recent History

1. **Recent Serious Incident:** On **26 March 2026**, the same helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing near Surat following a hydraulic system malfunction during flight. The incident prompted a full emergency response at Surat International Airport. Although catastrophe was avoided on that occasion, repeated technical failures indicate that the underlying reliability concerns remain unresolved.
2. **Lessons from Past Offshore Accidents:** The offshore aviation industry has already witnessed tragic consequences of helicopter failures, including the **Pawan Hans helicopter crash off the Mumbai coast in June 2022**, which claimed multiple lives. Such incidents serve as a stark reminder that offshore helicopter operations demand the highest standards of reliability and safety. Commercial or operational considerations must never take precedence over the safety of personnel.

Operational Impact

Apart from the immediate safety concerns, the repeated technical failures are significantly affecting offshore operations:

- **Growing Crew Change Backlog:** Frequent cancellations and delays, combined with monsoon-related disruptions, are creating substantial backlogs in crew change operations.
- **Reduced Passenger Capacity:** The operational capacity has reportedly been reduced from **7–9 personnel to only 5–6 personnel per flight**, resulting in additional sorties, increased logistical challenges, and reduced operational efficiency.
- **Disruption of Duty Schedules:** Repeated flight cancellations are disturbing crew rotations, extending offshore stays, and increasing fatigue levels, which itself constitutes a significant safety concern.

Loss of Crew Confidence

The repeated technical issues have severely eroded the confidence of offshore personnel in helicopter VT-RRI. Safety in aviation depends not only on technical compliance but also on the confidence of those who must travel on board. Asking personnel to continue flying in an aircraft with such a recurring history of technical failures is both unreasonable and unacceptable.

Our Request

Considering the repeated technical failures, the operational disruptions, and the legitimate safety concerns of offshore personnel, we request the following immediate actions:

1. **Immediate Replacement of VT-RRI:** A different, proven, and reliable helicopter should be deployed immediately for the Surat–Sagar Jyoti crew change operations. VT-RRI has lost the confidence of the workforce, and continuing its deployment compromises both safety and morale.
2. **Interim Alternative Arrangement:** Until a suitable replacement helicopter is positioned at Surat, an aircraft should be deployed from Mumbai or another suitable base to ensure continuity of safe crew change operations. Maintaining operations using an aircraft with a recurring history of technical failures is an unacceptable risk.

We trust that this issue will receive the highest priority and that appropriate corrective action will be taken without delay.

Regards,

Mondeep Kakati
18/07/2026
OIM
SAGAR JYOTI
ONGC, MR, MUMBAI
Mondeep Kakati
OIM

Sr.No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	CPF NO	SIGN
1	PINTU KUMAR KEER	EX.ENGR.(DRILLING)	137284	<i>Pintu</i> 18.07.2026
2	KAMLESH DAKARE	TECHN.(DRILLING)	126571	<i>Kamlesh</i> 18/07/26
3	VINAYAK SALVI	OPTR.(HE)	120946	<i>Salvi</i> 18/07/26
4	SIDHARTH BHICA	Field Operator	96482	<i>Sidharth</i> 18/07/2026
5	ASHU YADAV	SR. GEOLOGIST	135990	<i>Ashtu</i> 18/07/2026
6	DEIVA CHANDAR D	ASSTT.EX.ENGR.(INST	139434	<i>D. Deiva</i> 18/7/26
7	DEEPAK RASTOGI	ASSTT.EX.ENGR	141970	<i>Deepak Rastogi</i> 18/07/2026
8	PRADEEP KUMAR	FIELD EXECUTIVE	106630	<i>Pradeep</i> 18/07/26
9	HIMANSHU RAJAWAT	EX.ENGR.(CMTG)	135540	<i>Himanshu</i> 18.07.26
10	ANUPAM MONDAL	Asstt.Ex.Engr.(Cmtg)	139631	<i>Anupam Mondal</i> 18.07.26
11	MONDEEP KAKATI	CH.ENGR.(DRILLING)	122645	<i>Mondeep</i> 18/07/2026
12	AMAN KUSHWAHA	ASSTT.EX.ENGR.(MEC	141150	<i>Aman</i> 18.07.2026
13	SAI DEVARASETTI	Asstt.Ex.Engr.(Elect)	141543	<i>Sai</i> 18.07.2026
14	SUNIL KALE	SR.ENGG.ASSTT.(ELEC	126398	<i>Sunil</i> 18/07/26
15	DEEPAK LODHI	EX.ENGR.(DRILLING)	137383	<i>Deepak</i> 18/07/26
16	TATHAGAT PANKAJ	ASSTT.EX.ENGR.(DRIL	141476	<i>Tathagat</i> 18/7/26
17	KUMARAVEL M	TECHN.(DRILLING)	126504	<i>Kumaravel</i>
18	P. PANDIA RENGARAJA	ASSTT.ROUSTABOUT	136657	<i>P. Pandia</i> 18/07/26
19	PALTU MANDAL	Sr. Exe Chemistry	136070	<i>Paltu</i>
20	DILIP SAINI	GEOLOGIST	141353	<i>Dilip</i>
21	NAVAYYOTI GOGOI	Asstt.Engr.(Drilling)	125606	<i>Navayyoti</i>
22	AMOL KALBHILE	Jr.Engg.Asstt.(Drilling	140451	<i>Amol</i> 18/7/26
23	ARVIND MARANDI	SUPTDG.ENGR.(DRILLI	125770	<i>Arvind</i> 18/07/26
24	SUMAIS JALALUDHEEN	ASSTT.EX.ENGR.(MEC)	139521	<i>Sumais</i> 18.07.2026
25	SATISH PURENA	ASSTT.EX.ENGR.(MEC	141140	<i>Satish</i> 18.07.26
26	SIRAJ QURESHI	SR.ENGG.ASSTT.(ELEC	124878	<i>Siraj</i> 18.7.26
27	VINAY NYARE	SR.ENGG.ASSTT.(DRIL	127981	<i>Vinay</i> 18/07/26
28	SOMNATH SHINDE	TECHN.(MACHINING)	126625	<i>S. Shinde</i> 18/07/26
29	GOUROV DAS	ASSTT.ENGR.(MECH)	122921	<i>Gourav</i>
30	RAHUL AADLINGE	JR.ENGG.ASSTT.(MEC	140212	<i>Rahul</i> 18/7/26
31	LOVINDER SINGH	EX.ENGR.(ELECT)	138140	<i>Lovinder</i>
32	DHANANJAY SHIVAJI HAKE	ASSTT.OPTR.(HE)	126393	<i>D. Hake</i> 18/7/26
33	SAJAL SRIVASTAVA	EX.ENGR.(CMTG)	133629	<i>Sajal</i> 18/7/26
34	NAFEESUR RAHMAN	EX.ENGR.(DRILLING)	136279	<i>Nafeesur</i>
35	DIPAK DEORI	Asstt.Ex.Engr.(Drillin	92436	<i>Dipak</i>
36	BHAUSAHEB NARODE	JR.TECHN.(WELDING)	140269	<i>Bhauseeb</i>
37	SAURAV MEENA	Medical Officer	142083	<i>Saurav</i>
38	UMESH SHAMBHASHIV	Techn.(Welding)	122840	<i>Umesh</i> 18.07.26

39 Rajyashivsinh

safety officer

Rigging

To
The Offshore Installation Manager (OIM)
Rig Sagar Jyoti

Subject: Concern Regarding Helicopter Safety During Crew Change

Respected Sir,

We, the undersigned crew members manifested for the scheduled crew change to Rig Sagar Jyoti on 18.07.2026, wish to formally bring to your attention a matter of serious concern regarding the safety of the helicopter transportation arranged for offshore personnel movement.

We reported to Surat Airport well within the stipulated reporting time, completed all mandatory pre-flight formalities, and attended the prescribed safety briefing. We were subsequently allocated seats on the first sortie operated by VASU (VT-RRI, Global Vectra Helicorp). The helicopter departed Surat Airport at approximately 10:00 hrs for Rig Sagar Jyoti.

While enroute, we observed that the helicopter had altered its course and was returning to Surat Airport. This unexpected deviation caused understandable concern among all passengers on board. Upon enquiry, the Captain informed us that the aircraft was returning for a precautionary landing due to a technical issue requiring immediate attention.

The helicopter landed safely at approximately 10:25 hrs, and all passengers remained seated in strict compliance with the crew's safety instructions throughout the incident. During the shutdown of the main rotor following landing, an unusual mechanical sound was also noticed, which further heightened our concern regarding the aircraft's condition.

We have also been made aware that this is not an isolated occurrence and that the same helicopter has reportedly experienced repeated technical issues (even in mid-air) and periods of grounding in the past. While we are not in a position to independently verify these reports, such information, when viewed alongside today's incident, has understandably raised serious concerns among the crew regarding the reliability and continued airworthiness of the aircraft being deployed for offshore crew transportation.

The incident has had a significant psychological impact on the personnel involved. Understandably, many of us are apprehensive about reboarding the same helicopter.

If deemed appropriate, we also request that suitable alternative arrangements be considered until complete confidence in the aircraft's operational safety is restored.

The safety of offshore personnel is of paramount importance, and we trust that this matter will receive your immediate attention and due consideration.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours faithfully,

Crew Members
Rig Sagar Jyoti Crew Change
Date: 18.07.2026

Abhra Saha
18-07-2026
ABHRA SAHA
Manager (Chemistry)
ONGC, CPF: 131286

Pratik Yadav
18-07-2026
JE-A (ENST)
ONGC
CPF-140203

Akshay B. Kulkarni
18-07-26
AKSHAY B. KULKARNI
SEACD)
ONGC
CPF-130582

SANTOSH SWAMI
18/7/26
SANTOSH SWAMI
18/7/26
DEERICKMAN
SOUTH ASIA
NED-2025MUM
160827

Rupesh Adhikari
Rupesh Adhikari
Baker Hughes Coring Engineer
NED-2025MUM154707

GLOBAL
www.globallflighthandling.com

BOARDING PASS
Have A Pleasant Flight

Passenger Name Akshay Kulkarni

Departure Airport VASU

Arrival Airport SJT

Date of Travel 18/07/26 Gender M / F M

Aircraft Regn. VT-BRI Operator Name GLOBAL
Vector
Authorised by

General Aviation NSOP Charter Service Air Ambulance

GLOBAL
www.globallflighthandling.com

BOARDING PASS
Have A Pleasant Flight

Passenger Name Rupesh Adhikari

Departure Airport VASU

Arrival Airport SJT

Date of Travel 18/07/26 Gender M / F M

Aircraft Regn. VT-BRI Operator Name GLOBAL
Vector
Authorised by

General Aviation NSOP Charter Service Air Ambulance

GLOBAL
www.globallflighthandling.com

BOARDING PASS
Have A Pleasant Flight

Passenger Name Poojika Yeolar

Departure Airport VASU

Arrival Airport SJT

Date of Travel 18/07/26 Gender M / F M

Aircraft Regn. VT-BRI Operator Name GLOBAL
Vector
Authorised by

General Aviation NSOP Charter Service Air Ambulance

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www.globallflighthandling.com

BOARDING PASS
Have A Pleasant Flight

Passenger Name Santosh Swami

Departure Airport VASU

Arrival Airport SJT

Date of Travel 18/07/26 Gender M / F M

Aircraft Regn. VT-BRI Operator Name GLOBAL
Vector
Authorised by

General Aviation NSOP Charter Service Air Ambulance

GLOBAL
www.globallflighthandling.com

BOARDING PASS
Have A Pleasant Flight

Passenger Name Abhaya Saha

Departure Airport VASU

Arrival Airport SJT

Date of Travel 18/07/26 Gender M / F M

Aircraft Regn. VT-BRI Operator Name GLOBAL
Vector
Authorised by

General Aviation NSOP Charter Service Air Ambulance