

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 12
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th July 2022)

OPERATIONAL CONDITION OF PRIVATE AIRLINES

12. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many private flights that is being operational in India are technologically obsolete;
- (b) for how many years can a flight be in operation before being rendered obsolete;
- (c) the details of the number of flights that belongs to various private companies that have crossed the time period of maximum operational duration; and
- (d) the current average years of operation of flight in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has not prescribed guidelines specifying life for an aircraft to fly in India. Aircraft are considered airworthy provided the maintenance is as per approved schedule laid down by the manufacturer. Aircraft registered in India may operate as long as type certificate is valid to the type of Aircraft and the aircraft is under production/ maintenance support provided by Manufacturer for the continuous operation of the aircraft.

The aircraft may be withdrawn from operation by an operator, in case it becomes 'beyond economic repair' or is 'permanently withdrawn from use' due to any reason such as unavailability of spares, etc.

However, DGCA has laid down age criteria for an aircraft to be imported into India as under:

(i) Aircraft intended to be imported and used in passenger services (Scheduled/ Non-Scheduled) and General Aviation:

(a) Pressurized aircraft restricted to 18 years of age or 65% of designed economic life in terms of pressurization cycle, whichever is earlier

(b) Non Pressurized aircraft (intended to import in India) allowed up to 20 years of age on case to case basis agreed by DGCA.

(ii) Aircraft to be used for air cargo operations restricted to 25 years in age or 75% of its designed economic life in terms of pressurization cycles, whichever is earlier.

(d) The current average year of operation of flight in India is 15 years.
