

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 26
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th December 2023)

ADDRESSING STRESS AND FATIGUE ISSUES OF PILOTS

26. SMT VANDANA CHAVAN

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

- (a) whether there have been increasing cases of sudden deaths of young pilots on Indian carriers in the recent past;
- (b) whether these events have brought to focus the issue of stress and fatigue among pilots of Indian carriers;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the pilots have been expressing concerns about their schedules which involve consecutive night shifts and prolonged periods away from home base; and
- (d) whether Government will address the issue of flight duty time to address stress of the pilots, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (d) There have been concerns raised in media by the pilots regarding their schedules. Rule 39B of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 regarding Medical Standards of flight crew stipulates that no license or rating required for any of the personnel of the aircraft shall be issued or renewed unless the applicant undergoes a medical examination with an approved medical authority and satisfies the medical standards as notified by the Director General. In compliance with the same, DGCA has issued regulations which specify the medical requirements for flight crew license and ratings. The regulations are based on the provisions of ICAO Annex 1 and its amendments. For a commercial pilot's license, a Class 1 medical assessment is required which is carried out by medical boards at the Indian Air Force Medical Centers. As such, the medical screenings of the pilots is done from time to time based on international practices.

The duty schedules of the pilots are based on Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) regulations issued by DGCA. DGCA constantly endeavors to update regulations based on best practices worldwide and stakeholder consultations. DGCA has recently redrafted regulation on FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) for pilots vide Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7 Series J Part III, which has been uploaded on DGCA website for public comments.
