

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO : 9**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

**RULES ON CARRIAGE OF KIRPAN BY SIKH STAFF AND CREW  
MEMBERS**

\*9. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE

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

(a) whether the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has issued a directive that prohibits staff and crew belonging to the Sikh community from carrying a Kirpan with them; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this directive especially when Sikh passengers are permitted to carry a Kirpan on board subject to size restrictions?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 9 FOR REPLY ON 25.11.2024 REGARDING RULES ON CARRIAGE OF KIRPAN BY SIKH STAFF AND CREW MEMBERS ASKED BY SHRI SAKET GOKHALE**

(a) & (b): Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), aviation security regulator in the country, has issued guideline on carriage of Kirpan, that Kirpan carried by Sikh passenger (Not permitted for staff of any entity), on person, in domestic routes of fully domestic flights operating from Domestic Terminals are allowed. However, blade of Kirpan should not exceed 15.24 cms (6 inches) and total length of the Kirpan should not exceed 22.86 cms (9 inches). Cockpit/cabin crew and employees, by virtue of their bonafide access to sensitive areas of the airport and aircraft, are required to be free of any prohibited items as per guidelines of International Civil Aviation Organization(ICAO) Security Manual and National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP) of India.

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