GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Rajya Sabha

STARRED QUESTION NO.: 176

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17th March 2025

OBJECTIONS BY AIRLINES ON PILOT REST RULES

176. SHRI A. D. SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government has notified new Pilot Rest Rules, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Airlines operators have opposed these newly framed Pilot Rest Rules;
- (c) if so, the reasons and the objections raised by these Airlines; and
- (d) the steps that are being taken to address the issues raised by these Airlines with regard to Pilot Rest Rules?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 176 FOR REPLY ON 17.03.2025 REGARDING "OBJECTIONS BY AIRLINES ON PILOT REST RULES" BY SHRI A. D. SINGH.

- (a) & (b): Yes, the Government has notified the new Pilot Rest Rules under CAR Section 7, Series J, Part III, dated March 26, 2024 (Revision II), to enhance flight safety and ensure adequate rest for pilots. The key changes include revised Flight Duty Period (FDP) limits, mandatory rest periods, and restriction at night (landings and duty period by night).
- (c) & (d): Yes, the objections raised by airlines mainly revolve around operational flexibility, practicability issues, and the potential impact on flight schedules. Airlines have cited concerns that stricter rest requirements may lead to increased crew requirements, higher operational costs, and scheduling challenges. As per the Delhi High Court order dated February 24, 2025, airlines will submit their Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) scheme as per DGCA regulations which will be examined, reviewed and approved by DGCA as per past practice.
