

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2356
ANSWERED ON 08.08.2025

**IRREGULARITIES IN DUTY HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF
LOCO PILOTS**

2356. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the investigation conducted by a Railway Zone highlighting that loco pilots are being forced to work continuously for 13-14 hours, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the action taken against officials who allegedly coerced loco pilots into falsifying duty records in the Crew Management System (CMS); and
- (c) whether Government has compiled division-wise data on violations of maximum permissible working hours for loco pilots, particularly in goods train operations, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): Loco Pilots are important members of Indian Railway family who play pivotal role for moving passenger and goods traffic in safe and efficient manner. Indian Railways is committed to ensure proper working conditions for loco pilots.

Loco Pilots are classified under continuous category. Section 132 (2) of Railway Act, 1989, prescribes duty hours of 54 hours per week on an average in a two-weekly period of fourteen days for staff working under Continuous category.

Rule 8 of “Hours of Work and Period of Rest” (HOER), 2005 lays down the guidelines of duty hours of 52 hours per week on an average in a two-weekly period of fourteen days for Loco Pilots i.e., duty hours are less than maximum hours of 54 for other “Continuous” category employees on Indian Railways.

The running hours of Loco Pilots are meticulously monitored. Except for exigencies, the running hours are maintained.

For improvement of working conditions of loco running staff, several measures have been taken such as:

- All running rooms have been air-conditioned.
- Running staff are provided with Yoga and meditation room, reading room with newspaper and magazines for relaxing in accordance with their requirements.
- Provision for subsidized meals in running rooms.
- Availability of RO water filters in running rooms.
- Various safety drives & special counselling programs are regularly organized for checking the alertness and safety awareness among the running staff. Special safety seminars & meetings are also organized for interaction with family members of running staff for educating on role of quality rest in life of running staff.
- Special drives are launched regularly to counsel running staff to boost their morale and confidence.
