

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1380
(To be answered on the 9th February 2017)**

USE OF MOBILE PHONE/WI-FI IN FLIGHTS

1380. **SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL
SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI
ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allow the use of Wi-Fi in commercial aircraft operating over Indian territory, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has carried out a study and examination of the security implications of introducing Wi-Fi in commercial aircrafts, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued any direction to restrict the carrying of certain mobile phones in the flights in view of reported incidents of accidents in the flights and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has made any precautionary measures to check the possibility of such accidents via other electronic devices and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The proposal for providing on-board Wi-Fi services involves amendment of provisions of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Indian Telegraph Rules made there under. The Department of Telecommunications has already moved a proposal for providing in-flight connectivity for voice, data and video services for consideration of the Committee of Secretaries.

As of now, Wi-Fi In-flight Entertainment System (Transmitting - Portable Electronic Device) is an independent system and is not connected to aircraft control systems making it safe for aircraft operations.

(c): Yes, Madam. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a Public Notice dated 17.10.2016 to advise traveling public and airlines not to carry Samsung Galaxy Note 7 smartphone on board the aircraft including as checked-in luggage/cargo on any aircraft operating flights to, from or within India.

(d) : Yes, Madam. DGCA has already issued CAR Section 5 Series-X Part-I as guidelines for carriage or use of electronic devices on board the aircraft during flight.

As per Para 3.2 of the said CAR, "Electronic devices, intentionally transmitting radio signals like mobile/cellular phones, amateur radio transceivers, etc., if carried on board, shall be kept in non-transmitting mode (commonly referred to as Flight/Airplane Mode)."