

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1096
(To be answered on the 8th February 2018)**

Alcohol Test for Pilots

1096. **SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO
SHRI V. ELUMALAI**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानतल मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has found that pilots and cabin crew of Air India have skipped the mandatory pre and post flight alcohol test this year and the pilots may be grounded;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the rules that govern Air India pilots;
- (c) whether the crew members had regularly been evading the breath analyzer test, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering many options for those who evaded the alcohol test including grounding them; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानतल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) & (b) During the year 2018, no pilot or no cabin crew of M/s Air India has evaded the mandatory pre/post flight alcohol test till 01.02.2018.

Breath-Analyzer requirements are laid down in Civil aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 5 Series F Part-III, which are applicable to all Pilots, Cabin Crew and AME undertaking taxi operation, including pilots of M/s Air India. The relevant extracts from the regulation are attached as Annexure-I.

(c) The year-wise details of the crew members of Air India who operated flight without undergoing the breath-analyzer test are as follows:-

| Year | No. of Cockpit Crew | No of Cabin Crew |
|------|---------------------|------------------|
| 2016 | 08 | 05 |
| 2017 | 03 | 04 |
| 2018 | 00 | 00 |

(Till
01.02.2018)

Action has been taken against each of the involved crew members as per the proviso of CAR Section-5, Series- F, Part-III, Issue-III.

(d) & (e) The existing regulations are adequate. If a crew member evades the Breath-Analyzer test, the privileges of license/authorization of the involved crew member are suspended for a period of 03 months. In case of repeat evasion of Breath-Analyzer test by the crew member the privileges of license/authorization of the involved crew member are suspended for a period of 03 years.

The provisions of CAR Section 5 Series F Part –III, Issue-III dated 04th August 2015 are applicable to scheduled airlines as follows:-

- **Safety Regulations**

- For all scheduled flights originating from India, each flight crew and cabin crew shall be subjected to pre-flight breathalyzer examination.
- For all scheduled flights originating from destinations outside India, post-flight breathalyzer examination of each flight crew and cabin crew shall be carried out on reaching in India.
- In case of diversion of flights, due to unforeseen circumstances, to an airport where facility for pre-flight breathalyzer examination is not available, the flight crew and cabin crew shall undergo post-flight breathalyzer examination at first landing.
- All maintenance personnel shall be subjected to breathalyzer examination for alcohol consumption before undertaking any taxi operation of the aircraft.
- No crew member shall consume any drug/formulation or use any substance mouthwash/tooth gel which has alcoholic content. Any crew member who is undergoing such medication shall consult the company aero medical doctor before undertaking flying assignment.

- **Action On Being Tested Positive In Pre-Flight Medical Examination**

- Any crew member that tests pre-flight breathalyzer examination positive for the first time/refuses to undergo the pre-flight breathalyzer examination/refuses to undergo the pre-flight breathalyzer examination second time upon tested positive during the first test /operates the aircraft without undergoing pre-flight breathalyzer examination /attempt to evade the pre-flight breathalyzer examination by leaving the airport premises shall be kept off flying duty and their license approval suspended for a period of three months.
- In case of a repeat violation of the provisions contained above mentioned para, the license /approval of the crew member shall be suspended for a period of three years.
- In case of a second repeat violation of the provisions this CAR, the license/approval of the crew member shall be cancelled.
- An Instructor/Examiner/Check Pilot/Cabin Crew In-charge detected positive for alcohol consumption during pre-flight breathalyzer examination, will lose such ratings/authorisation for a period of three years in addition to the above mentioned action
- Maintenance personnel detected positive for alcohol consumption during breathalyzer examination shall be off-rostered. Penal action on such cases shall be same as for flight crew.

- All such violations shall be endorsed on the individual's license by DGCA. It shall be the responsibility of Chief of Flight Safety/Accountable Manager to submit the license/authorisation to DGCA for necessary endorsement.
- Whenever an expatriate pilot, operating in India is detected positive for alcohol consumption during pre-flight breathalyzer examination, the FATA shall be cancelled and the expatriate pilot shall never be considered for issue of the FATA. In addition, the concerned license issuing authority of the country shall be informed.

- **Action On Being Tested Positive In Post-Flight Medical Examination**

- Any crew member who tests positive for alcohol consumption in a post-flight breath-analyzer examination shall have contravened Rule 24 of the Aircraft Rules 1937. The details of his/her post-flight breathalyzer examination, licenses, ratings and approvals shall be immediately submitted along with original license /authorization/approval to the Director of Air Safety (HQ), DGCA. Action on such cases shall be taken in accordance with the proviso of Schedule VI of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Pending action under Schedule VI of the Rules, the involved crew member shall surrender the licenses forthwith.
- In addition to action indicated in the above Para the license/authorization/approval of person shall be suspended for a period of one year. In case of an expatriate pilot, the FATA will be cancelled.
- Any crew member that refuses to undergo the post-flight breath analyzer examination/attempts to evade the post-flight breath analyzer examination by leaving the airport premises shall be kept off flying duties and their license/approval suspended for a period of three months.
- An Instructor/Examiner/Check Pilot/Cabin Crew In-charge detected positive for alcohol consumption during post-flight breath-analyzer examination, will lose such ratings/ authorization for a period of three years in addition to the action mentioned above.
- In case of a repeat violation of the provisions contained, the license/approval of the crew member shall be cancelled.