

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 227
(To be answered on the 22nd December 2022)**

OPERATIONAL CRITERIA FOR AIRCRAFT

***227. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware that many of the private airlines operating in the country are technologically archaic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any criteria for determining the airworthy conditions of aircraft including its lifespan and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether several old aircraft of various airlines were unable to meet basic operational criteria and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

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

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 227 regarding "Operational Criteria for Aircraft" to be answered on 22.12.2022

(a) & (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has not prescribed guidelines specifying life for an aircraft to fly in India. Aircraft is considered airworthy provided the maintenance is as per approved schedule laid down by the manufacturer. Aircraft registered in India may operate as long as the aircraft is under maintenance support provided by manufacturer for the continuous operation of the aircraft.

The aircraft may be withdrawn from operation by an operator, in case it becomes 'beyond economic repair' or is 'permanently withdrawn from use' due to any reason such as unavailability of spares, etc.

However, DGCA has laid down age criteria for an aircraft to be imported into India as under:

(1) Aircraft intended to be imported and used in passenger services (Scheduled/ Non-Scheduled) and General Aviation

(i) Pressurized aircraft restricted to 18 years of age or 65% of designed economic life in terms of pressurization cycle, whichever is earlier

(ii) Non Pressurized aircraft (intended to import in India) allowed up to 20 years of age on case to case basis agreed by DGCA.

(2) Aircraft to be used for air cargo operations restricted to 25 years in age or 75% of its designed economic life in terms of pressurization cycles, whichever is earlier.

(c) No sir. No aircraft shall fly without having valid Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) as per Rule 15 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. The responsibility of the operator is to keep the aircraft continuous airworthy and in a controlled environment. The aircraft operating in India are periodically inspected for compliance with DGCA regulations. The aircraft can also be withdrawn by the airline from flying when the spare parts and consumables to maintain the aircraft are not available from OEM & Manufacturer to keep it airworthy.
