

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Lok Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4490
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27th March 2025)
PILOT FATIGUE AND AVIATION SAFETY

4490. SHRI AZAD KIRTI JHA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is aware that post COVID-19, pilots are being assigned up to four landings per day resulting in duty periods extending to 12-13 hours including up to 10 hours of flying duty and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has conducted any study to assess the impact of such extended duty hours on pilot fatigue and aviation safety and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fatigue-related complaints filed by pilots with airlines and the DGCA during the last three years along with the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to ensure adequate rest periods for pilots, particularly those operating short-haul international flights where hotel rest has been reportedly removed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): Pilots are assigned flights as per the approved "Duty Period, Flight Duty Period, Flight Time Limitations and Prescribed Rest Period" scheme of airlines in compliance with Para 6.1 & 7.1 of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7 Series J Part III Issue III dated 24th April, 2019 which are within stipulated limit.

For four landings, the Max Flying Time is 8 hrs with a maximum flight duty Period of 12 hrs.

Flight Time, Flight Duty Period, and Landing may be extended due to unforeseen operational circumstances ONLY as per para 16.1 of CAR7/J/III Issue III dt 24th April, 2019. In this case, additional rest is provided to pilots.

Fatigue-related issues are maintained by airlines for a period of 18 months as per para 17 of CAR 7/J/III Issue III dt 24th April, 2019. These are reviewed during regular audits, surveillances, and spot checks by DGCA.;

(d) & (e) Yes, minimum rest periods are ensured as prescribed in para 10 of CAR 7/J/III Issue III dated 24th April, 2019 which include short haul international flights. No hotel rest has been removed, where stipulated as per regulations.
