

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3175
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th December 2025)

OVERLOAD OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

3175. SMT RACHNA BANERJEE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is an operational overload of Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of ATCOs deployed per airport along with their working hours, airport-wise;
- (c) the number of vacancies for ATCOs, airport-wise;
- (d) whether the Government intends to develop a Fatigue Risk Management System for ATCOs, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether it is a fact that excessive fatigue in ATCOs poses a direct and ongoing threat to airspace safety and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Air Traffic is managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) through a total sanctioned strength of 5537 Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs). The deployment of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) is undertaken by AAI based on the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) - Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on Watch Duty Time Limitations (WDTL) which is as per international norms and also as per air traffic volume at airports so as to ensure safe and efficient air traffic management.

The total vacancies of ATCOs is 1260 with 396 vacancies in Northern Region, 331 vacancies in Southern Region, 286 vacancies in Western Region, 199 vacancies in Eastern Region and 48 vacancies in North-eastern Region.

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Rule 116 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 mandates every holder of an ATCO's licence to follow the watch duty time limitations specified by the Director General of Civil Aviation. Accordingly, DGCA's CAR on WDTL, inter-alia, focuses on reducing fatigue among ATCOs by specifying limits on duty period, mandatory intervals and break periods, and has been implemented by AAI.
