

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3444
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
INCIDENT OF CHOPPER CRASH IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the probe into a recent chopper crash in Himachal Pradesh has revealed a shocking lapse as reported in the `Times of India` on March 31,2007;
- (b) if so, whether the pilots are compelled to fly seven to eight hours a day without lunch or bathroom break;
- (c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Director - General of Civil Aviation for safety to helicopter operators; and
- (d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against these operators who ignore the instructions?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

- (a): No helicopter accident has been reported recently in Himachal Pradesh. However one accident involving a foreign registered helicopter was reported in Gund valley near Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir) on 16.03.2007. There were no fatal injuries to any one on board.
- (b)&(c): For the flight duty time of helicopter pilots, Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 7, Series J, Part II dated 14.02.2000 exists according to which pilots can fly 7 hours in a day with duty time period of 10 hours. In the said CAR no condition restricting lunch or bathroom break exists.
- (d): No such violation has been reported to DGCA. Suitable action against operators defying safety instructions is taken if any such lapses are pointed out in the investigation reports.