

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:95
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
IRREGULAR OPERATION OF FOREIGN FLIGHTS IN INDIAN AIR SPACE
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many foreign registered aircraft have made unrestricted flights in Indian Air space without the knowledge of the country's security establishment as reported in `The Times of India` dated 15 September, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such foreign registered aircraft noticed in the Indian Air space during the last six months;
- (d) whether the details of the crew members have been shared with the security agencies;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Union Government has fixed any responsibility for such lapses; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the parts (a) to (g) of the Lok Sabha Starred () Question No. 95 for 23/20/2008 regarding ` Irregular Operation of Foreign Flights in Indian Air Space ` .

(a), (b) and (c):- No foreign registered aircraft are allowed to operate to/from and within India in an unrestricted manner, except as a part of approved international itinerary. Prior approval of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is required to operate foreign registered aircraft within India for each and every flight and the permission is duly conveyed by DGCA to the concerned ATC units, who further convey to the Indian Air Force authorities for getting the Air Defence Clearance. However, the procedure does not involve Ministry of Home Affairs at any stage.

(d) and (e):- As per the practice in vogue, security clearance for crew members of foreign registered aircraft that are allowed to be retained in India for specific purpose and for specific period is not required from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The security clearance requirement is applicable only in respect of the foreign pilots operating Indian registered aircraft.

(f) and (g):- Do not arise.