

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2010
LIFE SPAN OF AIRCRAFT
Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the average life span of aircraft owned by the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) and the private airlines, company-wise;
- (b) whether most of the fleet owned by NACIL and the private airlines have outlived their utility and need replacement;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) exercises any control to ensure airworthiness, safety and grounding of aged aircraft; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken in the matter?

Answer

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

(a) to (e):- A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 263 DATED 12.08.2010 REGARDING LIFE SPAN OF AIRCRAFT.

(a):- There is no specific age limit for aircrafts nor is it prescribed by the manufacturers. However, they are to be maintained in accordance with maintenance programme approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and manufacturers for maintaining the airworthiness of the aircraft. An average age of aircraft which are under operation with the airlines are as under:

Airline Aircraft Type Average Age

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NACIL	Airbus A 319	2 years
	Airbus A 320	3 years
Airbus A 330		2 years
	Boeing 777-300	1.5 years
	Boeing 777-237	2.1 years
	Boeing 737 NG	5 years
	Boeing 777-222	14 years
	Boeing 747-437	15 years
	Airbus A 310 (Passenger)	24 years
	Airbus A 310 (Freighter)	22 years

Jet Airways	Boeing 737	5 years
	Boeing 777	3 years
	Airbus A 330	3 years
	ATR 72	6 years

JetLite	Boeing 737	9 years
	CRJ	11 years

Kingfisher Airbus A 330 2 years
Airbus A 320 4 years
ATR 4 years

SpiceJet Boeing NG 3 years

IndiGo airbus A 320 2 years

(b) and (c):- All aircraft which are operating with these airlines are airworthy

(d) and (e):- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) restricting the import of pressurized aircraft of more than 15 years and unpressurized aircraft of more than 20 years of age.

CAR Section-2, Series `F` Part XX Para 3, lays down the requirements stated above and CAR Section-2, Series `F` Part X lays down the procedure to ensure continuing airworthiness of ageing aircraft and continued structural integrity of all aircraft which have crossed 20 years of age.

DGCA ensures the compliance with the stipulated requirements.