

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3814

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013

FLIGHT DUTY TIME NORMS

Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Venugopal Shri P.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has issued notices to DGCA over pilots duty time norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the comparative details regarding flying hours applicable in India and worldwide; and
- (d) the steps proposed for speedy implementation of new flight duty time and flight time limitations norms?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b). Yes, Madam. Joint Action Committee of Airlines Pilots Associations of India and others had preferred Civil Appeal No. 3844 of 2011 before the Hon?ble Supreme Court against the decision of Mumbai High Court in the Writ Petition No.1687 of 2008, which upheld the action of DGCA to keep in abeyance the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on FDTL issued in 2007. While disposing of the Civil Appeal, the Hon?ble Supreme Court directed DGCA to expeditiously bring out new regulations on FDTL. DGCA formulated a new CAR based on the report of the Expert Committee on FDTL appointed by the Central Government.

Hon?ble Supreme Court has now issued notice based on the petition filed by Society for Welfare of Indian Pilots (SWIP) for alleged non-implementation of the FDTL CAR by DGCA.

(c) to (d): DGCA has issued CAR Section 7, Series J, Part III, Issue II on 11th Aug 2011 specifying the requirements for Flight and Duty Time Limitations and Rest Requirements for flight crew engaged in scheduled/non-scheduled air transport operations based on the recommendations of the Report of the Expert Committee set up by the Govt. Since the implementation of CAR involves study of various aspects including flight crew fatigue and rest period, the CAR has been implemented in a progressive manner. Till Feb 2013, 95% of operations of scheduled airlines were covered under the provisions of CAR. However, as on date, all operations of scheduled airlines including domestic, neighbouring countries and long haul international flights are covered under the provisions of the CAR.

The report of the Expert Committee contained FDTL followed in several other countries of the world.