

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4740
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014
ANTI-HIJACK POLICY
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any anti-hijack policy and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to bring in a new anti-hijacking legislation; and
- (c) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr. Mahesh Sharma)

(a) to (c): Yes Madam. The Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982 was enacted to give effect to the Convention for Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of the Aircraft signed at Hague in 1970. The Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982 was amended in 1994. The doctrine incorporated in the revised Contingency Plan on handling a hijacking situation describes an attempt to hijack an aircraft as an act of aggression against the country and shall provoke a response as against an aggressor. The increased incidents relating to hijacking of aircrafts and the strategy adopted by the offenders aimed at inflicting mass destruction of life and property has necessitated reassessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing strategies for handling such exigencies. Need was felt to make the extant provisions dealing with hijacking more comprehensive in order to cover all aspects and kinds of hijacking by offenders and conspirators and to make the law more stringent by award of death penalty for such offenses. It has therefore been decided to repeal the present law and to enact a new comprehensive legislation covering all the aspects. Accordingly, the Central Government has withdrawn the Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982 and introduced the Anti-Hijacking Bill, 2014 in the Rajya Sabha in the ongoing session of Parliament.