

Change in retirement rules of pilots and others

949. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is changing rules on retirement of pilots and others;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the comparative details of private airlines rules in this regard and their actual demands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Retirement of pilots is an internal policy of airlines concerned. Therefore, Government does not interfere in their internal policy matter. However, maximum age limit for professional pilots to exercise privileges of licence is 65 years as specified in Rule 28A of the Aircraft Rules 1937.

Rule 28A provides for maximum age limit for professional pilots :

- (1) No person, holding a pilot's licence issued under these rules and having attained the age of sixty-five years, shall act as Pilot-in-Command or Co-pilot of an aircraft engaged in commercial air transport operations.
- (2) No person holding a pilot's licence issued under these rules and having attained the age of sixty years, shall act as Pilot-in Command or Co-pilot of an aircraft engaged in commercial air transport operations unless it is operated in a multi-crew environment and the other pilot is less than sixty years of age.

Provided that the provisions of sub-rule (2) shall not apply in respect of aircraft certified for single pilot operations and not exceeding an all up weight of 5700 kilograms engaged in commercial air transport operations within the territory of India and while operating in a multi-crew environment.

Dealing with disabled person

950. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that very recently in two separate instances, two persons with disabilities were off-loaded and/or ill treated by two private airlines;
- (b) if so, the action that has been initiated against the concerned airlines;

(c) whether there are any directions/guidelines issued to all the airlines on how to deal with differently-abled persons; and

(d) if so, whether there is any mechanism in place to conduct periodic inspections whether or not an airline company complies with the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Three cases of harassment faced by physically challenged passengers were reported to the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), two in the year 2011 and one in 2012. The details and Action Taken report on these cases are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No. 938 [Part (a) and (b)]]

DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on "Carriage of Passengers by air with disability and/or with reduced mobility", which is being strictly adhered to by the airlines. The said CAR is available on DGCA website. Violation of the provisions of CAR is punishable under the Schedule VI of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Persons caught for stealing goods from IGI Airport

†951. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people caught so far in the case of theft of passengers' luggage from Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi;

(b) whether Government would consider to make covered luggage trolleys for the safety of passengers' luggage; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government to instil the feeling of security in the minds of passengers arriving at Indira Gandhi International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) As per the information provided by Delhi Police, total 35 persons have been arrested during the period 2007-2011 in connection with the theft of passengers' luggage from Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi.

(b) and (c) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has issued orders for the protection of passenger baggage by the aircraft operator. The airline security staff are deployed in baggage break up/make up area and aircraft holds while loading and off-loading of passenger baggage. All the baggage trolleys are escorted from arrival aircraft to baggage break up and on departure from baggage make up area to aircraft. Strict surveillance is maintained to avoid any theft/pilferage from passenger's baggage. Surprise checks are also conducted by the airline security staff. Besides, entire baggage movement area and conveyor belt is under CCTV and under surveillance of CISF.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi