

VT written on aircrafts

†1774. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the alphabets VT are written before the call sign on all the Government or private aircrafts flying in the country;

(b) since when the practice of writing VT is in vogue in the country and under which order; and

(c) the details of the word for which the abbreviation VT is used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The alphabets VT are written before the call sign (Registration No.) on all the Government or private aircraft registered in the country.

(b) As per the record available with DGCA, the first aircraft registered with VT was in the year 1946 for VT-AQJ belonging to Civil Aviation Department, Government of India.

As per Sub rule 1 of Rule 37 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, nationality mark of the aircraft shall be the capital letters VT in Roman character before the three capital letters are assigned by DGCA.

(c) As a contracting state to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), India has to follow the requirements of ICAO Annex 7, which deals with the aircraft nationality and registration mark.

"As per Para 2.3 of Annex 7, nationality mark shall be selected from the series of nationality symbols included in the radio call signs allocated to the State of Registry by the International Telecommunication Union. The nationality mark shall be notified to the International Civil Aviation Organization."

India has been allocated three series ("ATA-AWZ", "VTA-VWZ" and "8TA-8YZ") by the International Telecommunication Union and in accordance with the above paragraph 2.3 of Annex 7, India can choose aircraft registration mark from these series and notify to International Civil Aviation Organization. The aircraft nationality and registration mark "VT" is at present used from the "VTA-VTZ" series allocated by International Telecommunication Union.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.