

closed. The verifications are also to be closed if the cash deposit is declared under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY). Enforcement actions in non-compliant cases are being taken as part of on-going drive against tax evasion, which includes searches, surveys, verifications, assessment of income, levy of taxes, penalties and filing of prosecution complaints in criminal courts, wherever applicable.

The estimated consumption of gold in India during the last three years is as per the table below:—

Calendar year	Total consumption (Jewellery+Investment+Industrial) in tonnes
2014	852.5
2015	874.1
2016	602.1

Source: GFMS, Thomson Reuters, conveyed by Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**Non-compliance of Section 44 of Persons with
Disabilities Act, 1995 by airlines**

*276. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Section 44 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 states that establishments in transport sector shall, for the benefit of persons with disabilities, take special measures to adapt aircrafts in such a way as to permit easy access to such persons and adapt toilets in aircrafts and waiting rooms in such a way as to permit wheel chair users to use them conveniently;

(b) if so, measures taken to comply with the said Act; and

(c) the details of complaints received in this regard from disabled persons against private airline companies for harassing them together with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI): (a) Section 44 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 states as under:—

"Establishment in the transport sector shall, within the limits of their economic capacity and development for the benefit of persons with disabilities, take special measures to:—

(i) adapt rail compartments, buses, vessels and aircrafts in such a way as to permit easy access to such persons,

- (ii) adapt toilets in rail compartments, vessels, aircrafts and waiting rooms in such a way as to permit the wheel chair users to use them conveniently.

This Act has been subsequently repealed and replaced by the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 *vide* notification dated 28.12.2016.

- (b) The main measures taken by the Government in this regard are as under:—

- (i) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 3 Air Transport Series M Part I, Rev 4 titled Carriage by Air - Persons with Disability and/or Persons with Reduced Mobility dated 28.02.2014. This CAR lays down regulations for carriage of persons with disabilities and reduced mobility by air in order to protect them against any form of discrimination and to ensure that they receive all possible assistance during their travel.
- (ii) DGCA has also issued Air Transport Circular 01 of 2014 dated 26.05.2014 title - Facilities/Courtesies to esteemed travelling public at airports in order to facilitate the passengers, particularly senior citizens, expectant mothers, passengers with disability, first time travelers, etc. All scheduled airlines are to comply with both CAR and Air Traffic Control (ATC) in letter and spirit.

(c) As per information from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Office of Chief Commissioner for persons with Disabilities took up the following cases against Private Airline Companies:—

- (i) *Suo-moto* case against SpiceJet Limited in respect of Miss Jeeja Ghosh in 2012.
- (ii) *Suo-moto* case against Indigo in respect of Shri Shuaib Chalklen in 2012.

Subsequently, DGCA amended the CAR on Carriage by Air - Persons with Disability and/or Persons with Reduced Mobility *vide* CAR dated 28.2.2014. to provide for

- (i) Towable ramp at airports where ambulift or aerobridge facility is not available.
- (ii) Training for all personnel engaged in passenger services for sensitization and developing awareness for assisting persons with disability or reduced mobility.
- (iii) The assisting devices by airport operator for being used to assist a disabled passenger as per standard set by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

In addition, 34 complaints received by DGCA against private airlines and 9 complaints received on Air Sewa Portal have been appropriately redressed.