

Health and medical standard of pilots in private airlines

202. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pilots of private airlines are very casual about the health and medical standards, mandatory for the pilots, before taking off the flight;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had in the recent past, as reported in the newspapers, cautioned and directed one of the private airlines to check the mental alertness of its pilots; and

(c) what was the reason for the DGCA to issue such advisory to that particular private airline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No advisory for checking mental alertness of pilot of private airline was issued by DGCA.

Ban on carrying electronic gadgets in planes

203. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries that have imposed ban on carrying electronic gadgets like laptops, tablets, etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that Air India is the most beneficiary of this ban;

(c) to what extent this helps to increase the load factor of Air India and bring down its losses; and

(d) whether AI is planning to operate more flights to US and UK to cash in this development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Carriage of electronic gadgets like laptops, tablets etc. were banned by USA in March, 2017 on all flight coming to USA *via* or originating from 08 countries including Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, Morocco, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey. No such ban is applicable on any Direct flight to USA that originates from India.

(b) No Sir.