

(c) the number of pilots of Air India and private airlines caught drunk during duty hours since 2015 till now and the action taken against them;

(d) whether Government will make provision of strict punishment to stop pilots from consuming liquor during duty hours; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Director (Operations) Air India, tested positive in breath-analyzer test on 11th November, 2018 during Pre-Flight Medical Examination at Delhi while scheduled for operating flight No. AI- 111 (Delhi-London)

(b) Yes, Sir. His license was suspended for a period of three months in the year 2017 for not undergoing pre-flight breath-analyzer test.

(c) The number of pilots of Air India and private airlines tested breath analyzer positive during duty hours since 2015 is as under:—

Year	No. of pilots tested BA positive	Rate per 10,000 departure
2015	43	0.55
2016	45	0.49
2017	44	0.43
2018	47	0.43
(Till Nov., 18)		

The action has been taken by suspension of license privileges varying from 03 months to 03 years depending on the severity of the violation of relevant regulation.

(d) and (e) The existing provisions of penal action against pilots who test positive in breath-analyzer examination are quite strict and considered adequate.

Introduction of direct flight services between Bhubaneswar and Surat

2257. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken necessary steps for introduction of direct flight services between Bhubaneswar and Surat as per the proposal of the Chief Minister of Odisha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per Winter Schedule 2018, no Scheduled direct flights are available between Bhubaneswar and Surat.

With repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation was deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate. In this regard, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport service of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

Running of small airstrips by AAI

2258. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government will bear entire operational cost and engagement of personnel for running of State owned small airstrips through Airports Authority of India (AAI) under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) except security and fire services arrangement which could be provided by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): No Sir. However, the expenditure involved in infrastructure upgradation at State-owned airport for RCS operation is reimbursed by the Government of India under "Revival of Airport" scheme linked to UDAN bidding process.

Flight duty time limitations of the pilots

2259. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law which allows pilots to fly for more than eight hours;

(b) whether there is deliberate variations in flight duty time limitations of the pilots resulting in fatigue;

(c) whether there is any law which can save the pilots from fatigue; and

(d) if so, the number of cases when pilots were required to fly for more than eight hours?