

74. Committee of Inquiry.—(1) The Central Government may, at its discretion, appoint a Committee of Inquiry composed of two or more persons to hold an inquiry into an accident in which an aircraft is involved, and such a Committee shall have the same powers as an Inspector of Accidents under rule 72.

(2) The Committee of Inquiry may at its discretion hold the inquiry in public or in private.

(3) The Inquiry shall be conducted in such a manner that if a charge is made or likely to be made against any person, that person, shall be given notice that blame may be attributed to him and thereupon he may be given a reasonable opportunity of being present and making any statement or giving any evidence and producing witnesses on his behalf and examining any witnesses from whose evidence it appears that blame may be attributed to him.

(4) A public notice that an inquiry is taking place may be given by the Central Government in such manner as it may think fit and every such notice shall state that any person who may desire to make representations concerning the circumstances or causes of the accident may do so in writing within the time specified in the notice.

(5) The Committee of Inquiry shall make a report to the Central Government stating all relevant facts with regard to the accidents and its conclusions with regard to the causes of the accident, and adding any observation and recommendation which it may think fit to make with a view to preservation of life and avoidance of similar accidents in future.

(6) The Central Government may cause the whole or part of any such report of the Committee of Inquiry to be made public in such manner as it may think fit.

(7) When a person other than an officer of Government is appointed as a member of the Committee of Inquiry he may be granted such fee and expenses as may be determined by the Central Government.

(8) Every person summoned by the Committee of Inquiry as a witness in accordance with these rules shall be allowed such expenses as the Central Government may from time to time determine.

75. Formal Investigation.—Where it appears to the Central Government that it is expedient to hold a formal investigation of an accident, it may, whether or not an investigation or an inquiry has been made under rule 71 or 74, by order direct a formal investigation to be held; and with respect to any such formal investigation the following provisions shall apply namely:—

(1) The Central Government shall appoint a competent person (hereinafter referred to as "the Court"), to hold the investigation, and may appoint one or more persons possessing legal, aeronautical, engineering, or other special knowledge to act as assessors, it may also direct that the Court and the assessors shall receive such remuneration as it may determine.