

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:72

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007

SHORTAGE OF PILOTS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is a severe scarcity of pilots to cope up with the requirement of the aviation sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the requirement of pilots vis-a-vis the actual number of pilots in position, airlines-wise;
- (c) whether there is a huge backlog of class - I medicals for getting the Commercial Pilot Licence;
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the class - I medicals;
- (e) whether airlines expansion plans are adversely affected due to shortage of pilots;
- (f) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government; and (g) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to tide over the shortage of pilots and to meet the requirement of aviation sector?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION ( SHRI PRAFUL PATEL )

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 72 for 16.08.2007 regarding `Shortage of Pilots`.

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(a):- In view of the recent boom in civil aviation in the country, shortage of skilled manpower is being felt in the industry.

(b):- 4540 pilots are currently required in the country for airline operations in the country. Out of this 3950 Indian pilots are available presently and the shortfall of 590 pilots is being met through foreign pilots. The details of pilots with scheduled airlines are as under:-

S.No	Name of the airlines	No.of Indian Pilots	No.of Foreign Pilots	Total
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1.	Air India (including Air India Express)	544	94	638
2.	Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air)	696	20	716
3.	Jet Airways	671	117	788
4.	Air Sahara	233	15	248
5.	Air Deccan	277	131	408
6.	Kingfisher Airlines	263	48	311
7.	Spice Jet	130	17	147
8.	Go Air	44	20	64
9.	Paramount Airways	13	17	30
10.	Indus Airways	01	-	01
11.	Blue Dart	24	15	39

(c) and (d):- At present Class - I Medical examination for initial issue of Commercial Pilot Licence are being carried out only at 3 designated centres of India Air Force, thus leading to backlog. In order to reduce the rush at Air Force Medical Centres, Indian Air Force has added 11 more centres for carrying out medical check up for renewal of Licence. Further Government has taken up with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to identify more centres for carrying out Class - I Medical Test for issuance/renewal of Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL).

(e):- No, Sir. No such reports have been received.

(f):- Does not arise.

(g): The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots, Upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)/Aero Club of India (ACI). Besides, DGCA has approved a total of 26 flying training institutes (including IGRUA) in the country for imparting Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) training.