

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3103
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
ENGLISH LANGUAGE MANDATORY FOR CAREER IN FLYING
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to make English Language mandatory for career in flying;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the persons with valid licenses before the cut off date would be exempted from this proposal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) English has already been made mandatory in flying since very beginning of aviation in India as all the written/oral examinations, interviews etc. concerned with flying are conducted in English. The standard International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) phraseologies in aviation are used in English Language. All the pilots and Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) are already using standard phraseology in English Language.

DGCA has issued Aeronautical Information Circular(AIC) 3/2008 dated 5th March 2008 which provides that all aircraft personnel i.e. holders of pilot's licence, flight engineer's licence, flight navigator's licence (except student pilot's licence and pilot's licence for gliders, balloons and microlight aircraft), air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators shall have their English Language proficiency evaluated to the ICAO language proficiency standards within a period of three years from 5th March, 2008.

However, all the existing aircraft personnel i.e. holders of pilot's licence, flight engineer's licence, flight navigator's licence, air traffic controllers and aeronautical station operators, as on 5th March, 2008 shall be deemed to have the ability to speak and understand English Language to the required ICAO language proficiency Level 4 (operational).

The licences granted after 5th March, 2008 shall be considered to have the required ICAO language proficiency Level 4 (operational) till such time that the licences are issued on the basis of an evaluation conducted for assessing the applicant's language proficiency. The licences so granted shall be subject to the condition that the language proficiency of the licence holder is evaluated within a period of three years but in no case later than 5th March, 2011.