

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:637
ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010
SHORTAGE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of air traffic controllers resulting in operational difficulties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to fill the vacant posts by hiring the retired personnel;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c),(d) & (e) No, Madam. There are no operational difficulties due to shortage of air traffic controller. Against the sanctioned strength of 2407 posts in the Air Traffic Control (ATC) discipline, there are 1973 personnel in position and there is shortfall of 434. These vacancies are in the grades of `General Managers, Joint General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Senior Managers`, etc., which are being filled by promotion. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been making regular recruitment to fill up the vacancies. Air Traffic Control Officers are being recruited regularly to fill up the vacant posts. A total of 338 Junior Executives have been recently recruited and are undergoing training. 300 additional posts of Junior Executives have also been advertised for further recruitment. In addition, in order to meet the shortage services of 25 retired Air Traffic Controllers are also being availed.