

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:410
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011
FOREIGN PILOTS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to ever expanding aviation sector in the country, services of foreign pilots have become indispensable;
- (b) if so, the exact number of foreign pilots in Air India at present; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to train Indian pilots to gradually reduce the need for foreign pilots in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS & MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a):- Though there is no shortage of pilots in the country, due to induction of new type of aircraft, the industry is facing shortage of type rated pilots especially in the Commander categories. This is met by appointing foreign pilots on Foreign Crew Temporary Authorisation (FATA).

(b):- There were 70 Pilots in Command on Foreign Crew Temporary Authorisation (FATA) in National Aviation Company of India Limited (A)/ Air India Charters Limited as on 10.12.2010.

(c):- Guidelines have been issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to airlines to adopt effective training programmes for their Indian co - pilots for upgradation to Pilot in Command positions to gradually phase out expatriate pilots and in the process creating employment opportunities for Indian pilots.