

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4029

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012

SHORTAGE OF PILOTS IN AIR FORCE

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been facing shortage of pilots;
- (b) if so, the existing strength of pilots against the sanctioned strength;
- (c) whether the lack of adequate training infrastructure/facilities is reportedly one of the reasons;
- (d) if so, the details of the infrastructure/training facilities available with IAF and the number of pilots being trained every year; and
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government including the long-term plan to create the best training facilities and meet the shortage of pilots in the Air Force?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): The available strength of pilots in Air Force is sufficient to meet the current operational requirements of the Indian Air Force. The present strength of pilots as on 1st April, 2012 is 3406 against the sanctioned strength of 3783.

(c) & (d): Training infrastructure/facilities are available at Hyderabad and Yehlanka, for training of pilots. Presently, 180-200 pilots are commissioned every year in the Indian Air Force.

(e) The improvement in the job profile of the pilots and improvement of training infrastructure is a continuous process. Several measures have been taken by the Government in this regard. The Short Service Commission for Flying branch has been modified to make Men eligible for induction in this branch. The implementation of the recommendations of the Vth Central Pay Commission shall also go a long way in attracting youth.

Further, concerted efforts are also made to carry out proactive publicity campaign to reach the target group across the country, such as (i) participation in career fairs and exhibitions to enhance one-to-one interaction; (ii) Advertisement in print and electronic media including recruitment and career related articles; (iii) motivational lectures in schools / colleges; (iv) distribution of publicity material to target group; (v) visuals / signages at vantage points all over the country at strategic locations.

Training infrastructure has been augmented through induction of simulators and advanced jet trainers. Since July 2011, entire stage-III fighter pilots training has commenced on the advanced jet trainers.