

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1571

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013

AI PILOTS

Argal Shri Ashok; Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha ; Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao; Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre; Mahajan Smt. Sumitra; Shekhar Shri Neeraj; Singh Shri Uday Pratap; Singh Shri Yashvir; Sugavanam Shri E.G.; Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

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

- (a) whether incidents of underutilization of pilots of Air India have come to light;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year and the justification therefor along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of trained/ experienced pilots in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, airline-wise;
- (d) the number of air services affected/ financial losses incurred as a result thereof;
- (e) the estimated number of trained pilots required over the next three years along with the steps taken to meet such requirement;
- (f) the details and number of pilots who left AI during the above period and the reasons identified therefor; and
- (g) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?;

**Answer**

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION ( SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL )

(a) and (b): No, Madam. However, due to grounding of six B787 aircrafts, the pilots who were flying these aircraft are under-utilized for the time being.

(c) : There is a shortage of type rated Commanders in the country vis-a-vis the requirement. This is attributable to the growth in aviation industry and induction of new aircraft in their fleet by the airlines. However, sufficient number of co-pilots are available and employed with the airlines. To cover the shortage of commanders, validation of foreign pilots is done as per CAR Section-7, Flight Crew Standards, Series 'G' Part-II dated 1.12.2010. As on 28.2.2013, the number of foreign Pilots employed by domestic airlines is as under:

Air India	-	21
Alliance Air	-	11
Jet Airways	-	86
Indigo Airlines	-	50
spice Jet	-	63
Blue Dart	-	08
Non Scheduled Operators	-	85

(d): No such information is maintained/compiled by Ministry of Civil Aviation/DGCA.

(e): Airlines are free to recruit pilots to meet their operational requirements.

(f) and (g): Since January, 2012 and till date, 5 pilots have sought voluntary retirement and 4 have resigned citing personal and other reasons in Air India. Ten (10) pilots of Air India Express have left service in the said period.