

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1136

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015

SHORTAGE OF PILOTS IN AIR INDIA

Bhamre Dr. Subhash Ramrao; Biswas Shri Radheshyam; Chaudhary Shri P.P.; Mullappally Shri Ramachandran

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of pilots in Air India at present along with the number of pilots recruited by Air India during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether there is a shortage of pilots in Air India and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to recruit more pilots in Air India;
- (c) whether Air India has employed or is considering to employ a number of foreign pilots and if so, the details thereof along with the salaries being paid or likely to be paid to them in comparison to Indian pilots;
- (d) whether there have been any instances in the recent past wherein some pilots including pilots of Air India have been made to work extra time due to shortage of pilots and if so, the details thereof, airline-wise along with the normal working hours of a pilot; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to amend the pilots working hour rules and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which they are likely to be amended?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a): The total number of Pilots in Air India as on 01.02.2015 is 1464. Number of pilots recruited during last 3 years and current year is 42 with following details:-

2011-12	-	39
2012-13	-	02
2013-14	-	Nil
2014-15	-	01

(b): In view of the fleet augmentation and the retirements to take place in the next two years, Air India has advertised for filling up of 197 vacancies.

(c): No foreign Pilots are working in Air India at present and Air India has no plans to engage foreign pilots.

(d): No, Madam. The Pilots are subjected to fly only within the applicable Flight Duty and Time Limitations (FDTL). Necessary system has been in place, whereby, all operational situations are catered for exercising better supervision and control. However, only in exceptional and unavoidable, unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of airline, pilots are requested to complete the flight to avoid delays which cause inconvenience to passengers by giving extensions within applicable rules. Such extensions are approved and ratified by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(e): Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7, Series J, part-III has been notified by DGCA which specify the requirements for Flight and Duty Time Limitations and Rest Requirements of flight crew engaged in scheduled/ non-scheduled air transport operations and general aviation aeroplanes operations. However, at present there is no proposal to amend the requirement.