

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1908

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015

REQUIREMENT OF PILOTS AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS

Datta Shri Sankar Prasad

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers including foreign pilots and foreign engineers working in the Indian aviation industry at present;
- (b) The total requirement of pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers in the country at present;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any action to overcome the shortage of pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued 14374 Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) licence till 04.03.2015 and total number of foreign AME working in the Indian Aviation industry at present is 6. As per the records of scheduled airlines up to Feb. 2015 they have 4953 pilots. The total numbers of foreign pilots employed by various aviation companies as on 31st December, 2014 is 269.

(b) No such data is maintained by the Ministry. However, as per CAR Section 3, Series C Part II, Para 3.2.5 sufficient number of flight crew but not less than three sets of crew per aircraft is required.

(c) and (d) Regarding AMEs, DGCA has approved AME training Institute to impart Ab-initio training to the incumbent AME and Central Examination Organization of DGCA is conducting knowledge examination three times in a year to cater with the need of industry.

Regarding pilots, there is shortage of type rated Commanders in the country due to growth in aviation industry and induction of new aircraft in the fleet of the airlines. However, sufficient number of co-pilots are available and employed with the airlines. These co-pilots do not possess sufficient training and experience as required to become commander on that type. To cover the shortage of commanders and to provide experience and training to these mentioned co-pilots so that they can be upgraded to commanders, validation of foreign pilots is done as per CAR Section-7, Flight Crew Standards, Series `G` Part-II dated 01st December 2010. The strength of foreign pilots have decreased in the subsequent years as more and more Indian co-pilots are upgraded to commanders. Further, Government has extended the date for employing foreign pilots and engineers by Air Service Operator upto 31.12.2016.