

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 736
(To be answered on the 21st November 2019)**

SHORTAGE OF PILOTS

736. SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is any shortage in the number of airline pilots for commercial airlines and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for the same and the measures being taken by the Government to fill up the shortage;
- (b) whether any welfare schemes are being implemented by the Government specifically for commercial airline pilots, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to introduce any welfare schemes for the above mentioned and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) Due to the growth in the aviation industry and induction of new type of aircraft in the fleet by the airlines, there is a shortage of type rated Pilot-in-command in the country. However, sufficient numbers of Indian co-pilots are available and employed with airlines. These co-pilots do not possess the training and experience as mandated by the safety regulator to become Pilot-in-command. To cover the shortage of type rated Pilots-in-command, validation of foreign pilots is done as per rule 45 of Aircraft Rules, 1937. The foreign pilots are phased out by the airlines once the co-pilots inducted by them gain the mandated requirements for being designated as Pilot-in-command after undergoing requisite training.

Further, to overcome the shortage of pilots, all the Schedule and Non-Schedule airlines have been advised to develop pilot training programmes in order to reduce the dependency on foreign pilots. Accordingly, airlines train their pilots to upgrade them as Pilot-in-command to reduce the dependency on foreign pilots.

(b) & (c) No Sir. No such welfare scheme has been introduced by this Ministry.