

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 978
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th December 2018)

HIRING FOREIGN PILOTS TO OPERATE AIR INDIA

978. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN

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

- (a) whether Government has hired any foreign pilot to operate Air India/Air India Express flights during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is hiring foreign pilots on exigencies only or on regular basis;
- (d) whether Government has taken any concrete step to have adequate number of indigenous pilots; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) & (b) : Air India has not hired any expat/foreign pilot during the last three years. However, Air India Express (a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India) has hired 63 foreign captains/pilots during the last three years. The details are as under :-

Year	No.
2016	29
2017	23
2018	11

(c) : Hiring of expat/foreign pilots depends upon demand of aviation industry to overcome the shortage of type rated Pilots-in-Command / Instructor / Examiner. These foreign pilots are hired on Fixed Term Employment Agreement as per requirement.

(d) & (e) : All Airlines, Scheduled and Non-Scheduled airlines have been advised to develop their own in-house strength to reduce the dependency on the foreign pilots. Airlines are required to submit their phase out plan of foreign pilots periodically. Further, the Govt. has extended the use of foreign pilots by Indian carriers upto 31.12.2020 in view of shortage of type rated Pilot-in-Command/Instructor/Examiner in the country. The details of the Indian pilots upgraded as Pilot-in-Command/Commander and Phased out foreign pilots by domestic airlines in Year 2018 is enclosed as Annexure.

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ANNEXURE TO RSUQ 978

Year – 2018 Upto September, 2018)					
S.No.	Operator	No. of Indian pilots	No. of Foreign Pilots	No. of Indian Pilots upgraded as pilot-in-Command From Jan.,2018 to Sept., 2018	Phased out foreign pilots period from Jan, 2018 to Sept., 2018
1.	Alliance Air	84	45	02	00
2.	Air India Express Ltd.	334	14	16	11
3.	Air Asia	269	09	41	07
4.	Blue Dart	56	02	04	04
5.	Go Airlines	400	43	19	10
6.	Indigo	2697	81	198	06
7.	Jet Airways	1620	28	150	12
8.	Spice Jet	845	34	62	02
9.	Vistara	253	04	17	01