

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1620
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th December 2023
SHORTAGE OF PILOTS IN THE COUNTRY

1620. SHRI A. D. SINGH

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of pilots in the country, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether many Indian airlines have given orders for purchasing new aircrafts in last one year;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof, airlines-wise;**
- (d) whether the shortage is going to be acute in the wake of huge orders given by the airlines; and**
- (e) the efforts being made to ensure that there is no shortage of pilots?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a): There is no shortage of pilots in the country. However, there is a shortage of Commanders on certain types of aircraft which is addressed by utilising foreign pilots through Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorisation (FATA).

(b) & (c): M/s Air India Limited and M/s Inter Globe Aviation Limited have given orders for purchasing new aircraft in the last one year. The airline wise details are attached as Annexure.

(d) & (e): The Government has taken several steps to establish more flying schools across the country to train greater number of commercial pilots. These include the following:

i. 2021 onwards, after a competitive bidding process, AAI has awarded 15 FTO slots at 10 airports of which 5 are operational. Among these FTOs, Helicopter training is being imparted at Khajuraho.

ii. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) at Amethi has been permitted to carry out pilot training at Gondia (Maharashtra) and Kalaburagi (Karnataka) to enhance its flying hours and aircraft utilisation. Currently, there are 34 Flying Training Organizations (FTOs) in the country operating at 55 bases which are imparting flying training to cadets. During the current year 2023 (till November), a total of 1491 Commercial Pilot Licenses(CPLs) have been issued so far. The trend indicates a substantial increase in number of CPLs issued in comparison to previous years.

ANNEXURE

1. Air India Ltd.

Type of Aircraft	No. of aircraft	Delivery Time
Airbus A321-321 Neos	210	2025 to 2034
Airbus A350	40	2023 to 2034
Boeing 737 MAX	190	2023 to 2034
Boeing 787	20	2025 to 2034
Boeing 777-9	10	2025 to 2034

2. InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (Indigo)

Type of Aircraft	No. of aircraft	Delivery Time
A320 family	500	2030 onwards.