

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 667  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024)**

**EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT AVIATION SECTOR  
GROWTH AND INNOVATION**

667. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR

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

- (a) whether Government is contemplating the establishment of a dedicated fund for MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) facilities, cargo handling, and supply chain improvements in the aviation sector, and if so, the details thereof
- (b) whether Government is considering to establish more Government aviation training institutions to address the aviation sector's talent shortage, and if so, the details thereof
- (c) whether Government is considering to create more scholarship and training programmes to nurture skilled professionals in the aviation sector, and if so, the details thereof and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to integrate cutting-edge technologies like AI, IoT, and blockchain in the aviation sector?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

- (a) Presently, no such program/proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.
- (b) & (c) Currently, there is no such proposal under consideration of this Ministry. However, at present, there are 37 FTOs operating at 57 bases for providing CPL training in the country. In the year 2023, total number of 1622 Commercial Pilot Licenses (CPLs) were issued, which is an all time high. Apart from this, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approves Drone Training Schools as per the Drone Rules 2021. Under these Rules, currently, 140 drone training schools have been approved for providing drone training/skilling across the country. Till date, these training schools have certified 18862 drone pilots. The number of drone training schools approved by DGCA for Drone Pilot Certificate courses in the last 02 years are as follows:-

Year	Number of Drone training Schools
2022	39

2023 81  
2024 140  
(As on 31.10.2024)

In order to meet the requirement of aviation training, encourage skill development and increase the domestic training capacity, the government has taken the following steps:-

(i) To augment the supply of trained pilots in the country, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has brought out a liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) policy whereby the concept of airport royalty (revenue share payment by FTOs to AAI) has been abolished and land rentals have been significantly rationalised.

(ii) After a competitive bidding process in two phases in 2021 and 2022, respectively, AAI has awarded 15 FTO slots at 10 airports. Of these, 11 FTO slots are currently operational.

(iii) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has recently launched an internship scheme "Pradipti" with aim to create interest in Civil Aviation among the students. The aims of the scheme are:

- Supplementing theoretical knowledge with practical operations / working.
  - Giving exposure to students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) / non-STEM domains - widen horizons.
  - Giving opportunity to work on small-duration projects related to Civil Aviation
- Currently, no such proposal/program for scholarship is under consideration of this Ministry.

(d) Equipping airports with cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for revolutionisation of aviation sector is an ongoing process. For IT infrastructure, solutions/devices which uses AI and ML are deployed.

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