

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 385
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30th March 2026)
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT OF PILOTS

*385. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian carriers have placed orders for a significant number of pending aircraft;
- (b) if so, the airline-wise details thereof and the expected schedule of deliveries;
- (c) whether the anticipated induction of aircraft will create a substantial requirement for additional pilots in the coming years and the estimated number required;
- (d) whether Government has assessed the capacity of existing Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) to meet this demand; and
- (e) the concrete steps taken or proposed to augment pilot training infrastructure in the country?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 385 FOR REPLY ON 30.03.2026 REGARDING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT OF PILOTS ASKED BY SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI.

(a) to (c): The aircraft orders placed by major Indian Scheduled airlines, aircraft delivered and the details on induction plan is given below:-

S. No.	Name of the operator	No. of Aircraft ordered	No. of Aircraft delivered (31.12.2025)
1	Air India Group	570	56
2	InterGlobe Aviation Limited (Indigo)	1260	332
3	SNV Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (Akasa Air)	226	31

The induction of aircraft is an ongoing process and is spread over multiple years, depending upon factors such as aircraft type, manufacturing schedules, and supply chain dynamics. Accordingly, airlines receive aircraft in a phased manner.

The anticipated induction of additional aircraft is expected to increase the requirement for flight crew over the coming years. The estimated requirement of pilots by major Scheduled Airlines during the next 5 years is around 17,000.

(d) & (e): The training capacity at DGCA approved Flying Training Organisations (FTO) is adequate in terms of training infrastructure available at these FTOs. To further strengthen pilot training infrastructure, the Government has taken the following steps:

- i. 3 new FTOs were approved in FY 2025-26, taking the total to 41 FTOs across 63 flying bases. 5 additional FTOs are under approval with one at Amravati by Air India marking the start of an airline-led training academy.
- ii. Induction of 61 training aircraft was facilitated in 2025, taking the total available training aircraft to 396, which will expand training capacity.
- iii. Relevant regulations namely CAR (Section 7, Series I, Part V) in 2025 to address shortage of examiners and instructors, and CAR (Section 7, Series D, Part I) to ease procedural requirements for FTOs were revised.
- iv. FTO ranking framework was introduced (effective 01.10.2025) to improve quality, safety and efficiency of FTOs.
