

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1000
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9th February 2026
ASSESSMENT OF SHORTAGE OF PILOTS

1000. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) the assessment of the shortage of qualified commercial pilots in the country, given projections that the sector will need 35,000-40,000 new pilots over the next decade;
- (b) whether Government has an approved target for pilot training throughput for instance new licences, type ratings to meet that demand, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether retention mechanisms such as compensation, career progression, working conditions are being introduced to curb high attrition in airlines and flying schools; and
- (d) the manner in which Government plans to coordinate with FTOs, airlines and regulatory bodies to avoid bottlenecks in pilot supply during the anticipated growth of aviation traffic?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

a) to c) In view of the anticipated growth in Aviation Sector, Ministry of Civil Aviation is committed towards providing an enabling environment for capacity building of qualified commercial pilots in the country. The demand of commercial pilots and availability are primarily driven by market dynamics.

As such any fixed annual intake target for pilot training is not specified. However, the FTOs are required to ensure that the intake of student pilots for CPL training course should be commensurate to the availability of Aircraft and Flight Instructors with the FTO.

Retention, Compensation and Attrition in Airlines and Flying Schools are market-driven.

In accordance with the extant regulations, FTOs have a career progression framework for flight instructors, based on instructional flying experience gained on trainer aircraft comprising Assistant Flight Instructors (AFIs), Flight Instructors (FIs), Ground Instructors (GIs), Post holders such as Chief Flying Instructor (CFI), Deputy Chief Flying Instructor (Dy. CFI), Designated Examiner (DE) etc.

d) DGCA coordinates with FTOs and airlines through periodic consultations and has undertaken regulatory reforms including:-

1. Revision of Section 7, Series I, Part V (2025), ensuring a more expeditious training framework.
2. Revision of CAR Section 7, Series D, Part I to expedite FTO approvals.

3. Introduction of Ranking System for approved Flying Training Organizations (FTOs) w.e.f. 1st Oct 2025.
