

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 13
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July 2026

**SHORTAGE OF COMMERCIAL PILOTS AND PILOT TRAINING
SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY**

13. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Commercial Pilot training schools and pilot strength in the country is inadequate and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether 50 per cent of commercial pilots in the country has to undergo training abroad, as Commercial Pilot training facilities are inadequate in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to establish a world-class pilot training infrastructure in the country especially Chennai, to train more commercial pilots; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to reduce the cost of pilot training using state of art simulation technology and virtual reality?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

a & b) At present, there are 41 Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approved Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) with 63 bases across the country with more than 400 aircraft. Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 7 Series D Part I stipulates Aircraft:Instructor:Student ratio as 1:1:10 which corresponds to training capacity of approximately 3500 students at these FTOs at any given point of time. The number of Commercial Pilot Licences (CPLs) issued in India including abroad trained cadets over the last 5 years is placed at Annexure.

- c) The Government has taken several steps to strengthen pilot training infrastructure in the country, including:
- (i) Simplifying and streamlining the approval and oversight process for Flying Training Organisations.
 - (ii) Revising training regulations to improve efficiency and optimise utilisation of training resources.
 - (iii) Introducing a ranking framework for FTOs to promote quality and safety in pilot training.

(iv) Regularly updating the regulatory framework in line with international best practices.

(v) To enhance flying hours availability, the inflight visibility criteria has been conditionally revised to 3 Kms from earlier 5 Kms under the Flight Training Circular 01 of 2025.

(vi) DGCA has revised Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 7, Series I, Part V and Designated Examiner's Manual by delinking the examiner function from the CFI/Dy. CFI role, delegating Flight Instructor Rating checks to FTOs, expanding qualified examiner pool, reducing cool-off period to 30 days for appearing in second attempt of Oral exam for CFI, Dy. CFI & DE.

(vii) The frequency of oral examinations/boards for Assistant Flight Instructors (AFI), Flight Instructors (FI) has also been increased to monthly basis.

In Chennai, AAG Centre for Aviation Training Private Limited has been approved by DGCA as an Approved Training Organisation (ATO) for providing type-specific pilot training.

d) To make pilot training more affordable, the Government has:

(i) Introduced a liberalised FTO policy under which airport royalty has been abolished and land rentals have been substantially reduced.

(ii) Exempted flying training courses conducted by DGCA-approved FTOs from GST.

(iii) Permitted the use of simulators and other modern training technologies, in accordance with DGCA regulations, to improve training efficiency and reduce costs.

ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE TO THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.
13 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.07.2026.**

Year	CPL issued to cadets from Indian FTOs	CPL issued to cadets from foreign FTOs	Total	Share of cadets from foreign FTOs
2022	616	549	1165	47.12%
2023	955	667	1622	41.12%
2024	798	549	1347	40.75%
2025	1037	615	1652	37.22%
2026 (till 30.06.2026)	791	540	1331	40.57%