

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1629
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026

FLIGHT TRAINING ORGANISATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

1629. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) the total number of operational Flight Training Organizations (FTOs) in the country and their annual pilot graduation rate;
- (b) details of the incentives provided to establish new flying academies at underutilized regional airports nationwide;
- (c) whether Government has addressed the reliance on foreign institutions for commercial pilot training and type-rating;
- (d) steps taken to digitize pilot licensing and logbook verification processes through the e-Governance in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (eGCA) electronic portal; and
- (e) the measures implemented to increase the representation of women commercial pilots in the domestic aviation sector?

ANSWER

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

(a) As of June 2026, there are 41 Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approved Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) functioning across 63 training bases in the country, out of which 39 FTOs are operational. Further, eight Approved Training Organisations (ATOs) are presently functioning in the country for type-rating training. During 2025, 1037 Commercial Pilot Licences (CPLs) were issued to cadets trained in Indian FTOs and during 2026 (up to 30 June), 791 CPLs have been issued.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken measures to strengthen pilot training capacity and infrastructure in the country. The Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7, Series D, Part I prescribe an Aircraft:Instructor ratio of 1:1:10, corresponding to a training capacity of approximately 3500 students at the approved FTOs at any given time. The measures taken also include:

- (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) 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.

(v) DGCA has revised CAR Section 7, Series I, Part V and Designated Examiner's Manual by delinking the examiner function from the Certified Flight Instructor (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 & Designated Examiner.

(vi) The frequency of oral examinations/boards for Assistant Flight Instructors (AFIs) and Flight Instructors (FIs) has been increased to a monthly basis.

No specific Government incentive is provided for setting up new FTOs.

(d) DGCA has implemented the eGCA platform to digitise flight crew licensing and related services. It has replaced paper licences with QR code-enabled smart cards, enabled Electronic Personnel Licensing (EPL) in line with ICAO standards from 20 February 2025 and made India the second ICAO-recognised country to issue electronic licences via mobile devices. The platform also allows online issuance and renewal of Private Pilot Licence (PPL), CPL and Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL), along with an e-Logbook for DGCA-verified digital flight records.

(e) Women constitute about 15 per cent of commercial pilots in India, higher than the global average. Pilot licences issued to women increased from 243 in 2021 to 461 in 2025.
