

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 811
(To be answered on the 17th September 2020)**

TERMINATION OF PILOTS/EMPLOYEES BY AIR INDIA

811. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Air India Limited has terminated a significant number of its pilots and other employees recently and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has further terminated around 50 pilots allegedly in violation of Operation Manual and service rules of Air India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether certain pilots who were terminated were on active duty; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (e): From July 2019 onwards, a total of 50 Pilots (Both Permanent and Fixed Term Contract) submitted their resignations by giving 6 months notice. Resignations in respect of Pilots who had no outstandings (viz. recovery of training cost , Service bond and Liquidity Damages) were processed, accepted and communicated to them. Those who had outstandings were advised to clear their dues before acceptance of their resignations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in extra-ordinary and exceptional circumstances by gravely reducing the commercial functioning of the Company leading to redundancies. The current operations are a small fraction of Pre-COVID level and the Company is incurring huge net losses. In view of the financial condition of the Company, a conscious decision was taken in August 2020 by Air India Ltd. to accept the resignations of all such Pilots who had earlier resigned and subsequently requested for withdrawal of their resignations.

In addition, the post retirement contracts of 61 retired Pilots were discontinued.

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