

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2056
(To be answered on the 28th July 2022)**

SHORTAGE OF PILOT TRAINING SCHOOLS

**2056. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN
SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to address the shortage of pilot training schools in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the challenges in opening more training schools in the country;
(c) the reasons behind a delayed initiative from the Government on this issue, given that the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture had previously flagged this issue on July 23, 2021 in the Parliament?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (c) **Yes Sir. In order to address the shortage of pilot training schools in the country, the Government has taken the following steps:**

(i) **In 2020, Airports Authority of India (AAI) came up with a liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) policy wherein airport royalty payments (revenue share payment by FTOs to AAI) was abolished and land rentals were significantly rationalised.**

(ii) **In 2021, after a competitive bidding process, AAI issued letters of award for nine FTO slots at five airports at Belagavi (Karnataka), Jalgaon (Maharashtra), Kalaburagi (Karnataka), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) and Lilabari (Assam). As on 30th June 2022, four of these FTOs have commenced commercial operations - two at Kalaburagi and one each at Jalgaon and Lilabari.**

(iii) **In June 2022, after a competitive bidding process, six more FTO slots were awarded by AAI at five airports namely: Bhavnagar (Gujarat), Hubballi (Karnataka), Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh), Kishangarh (Rajasthan) and Salem (Tamil Nadu).**

The award letters were given to the winning bidders in May 2021. One FTO

commenced operations in April 2022 and three in June 2022. The entire process - involving contracting, civil construction (hangar, apron, taxiway etc), aircraft fleet procurement, multiple regulatory approvals (from DGCA, BCAS, DGFT, AAI, Fire authorities etc.) and final commissioning - was completed in a short period of 11-13 months.

The establishment of new FTOs has been done on priority, despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, weather and other factors, with close monitoring by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Normally these activities - from letter of award to commissioning stage - take approximately 18 to 24 months.
