

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 32

(To be answered on the 29th January 2026)

PILOT-AIRCRAFT RATIO IN DOMESTIC AIRLINES

32. SHRI K E PRAKASH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION **नागर विमानन मंत्री** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the current pilot-aircraft ratio in domestic airlines in view of rapid fleet expansion and increased flight operations and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the existing pilot strength is adequate to ensure smooth functioning of air services without compromising flight safety, crew rest requirements and work-life balance of pilots and if so, the details thereof; (c) whether any norms or guidelines have been prescribed or are proposed to be revised regarding minimum pilot strength per aircraft and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning any new initiatives to address pilot shortages including expansion of training capacity and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

a) to c) To ensure operational stability, all airlines assess the pilot-aircraft ratio while keeping into account the fleet expansion and dynamic operational requirements. Periodic reviews are undertaken by respective airlines to ensure continued compliance and smooth functioning of air services without compromising flight safety, crew rest requirements and work-life balance of pilots. Currently, the pilot-aircraft ratio in Domestic Airlines in India is found to be adequate.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 3, Series 'C', Part II, which stipulates number of flight crew and cabin crew, being not less than three sets of crew per aircraft.

d) Ministry is committed towards providing an enabling environment for augmentation of Training Capacity in the country. DGCA prescribes regulatory standards, approves training organization, and oversees training activities in accordance with applicable Civil Aviation Requirements.

For ensuring adequate pilot training capacity, DGCA has revised Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7, Series I, Part-V (Issue-II, Rev 08 Dt. 3rd January 2025, covering the aspects of instructor availability, training standards and examination processes
