

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4438**  
( TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19th March 2026 )

**SHORTAGE OF ATCs**

4438. SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is any shortage of Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) and technical staff across various airports of the country and if so, the details and vacancies thereof, airport-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to ensure that aviation safety standards are not compromised;
- (c) the number of aviation safety incidents reported during the last three years; and
- (d) the action taken by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to improve compliance and monitoring mechanisms?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): The deployment of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) based on the Directorate General of Civil Aviation - Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on Watch Duty Time Limitations (WDTL) which is as per international norms and also as per air traffic volume at airports so as to ensure safe and efficient air traffic management.

The recruitment of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) is a continuous process undertaken by AAI in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by DGCA. With a total sanctioned strength of 5537 ATCOs, AAI assesses the requirement for ATCOs from time to time based on the operational needs at various airports. The vacancies are filled through direct recruitment as well as departmental examinations. Aviation safety is maintained through optimal utilization of available manpower in accordance with the extant norms and standards.

(c): The number of aviation safety occurrences for the year 2023, 2024 and 2025 (till September 2025) monitored by Airports Authority of India (AAI) as per regulatory (DGCA) requirements is attached as Annexure-A.

(d): To examine compliance and ensure effective monitoring, the DGCA has carried out surveillance activities in respect of Air Traffic Management (ATM), Search and Rescue (SAR), Aeronautical Information Services (AIS), aeronautical maps and charts (CARTO), and Procedures for Air Navigation Services-Operations (PANS-OPS), in accordance with the Annual Surveillance Plan.

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**Annexure-A**

**AAI SMS Performance Summary – 2023, 2024 and 2025**

The table below depicts the Absolute number of occurrences monitored as per regulator’s Safety Performance mandatory reporting safety parameters

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Occurrences</b>	<b>Occurrences in Numbers (For Year 2023)</b>	<b>Occurrences in Numbers (For Year 2024)</b>	<b>Occurrences in Numbers (For Year 2025)</b>
1	Aerodrome Operations Occurrences (Runway incursions/excursions, Bird Strikes, Ramp Incidents)	735	1498	1640
2	Air Traffic Service Occurrences ( Communication Error, Laser Interferences, Non-Compliance of ATC Instructions by Aircrafts)	382	689	696