

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2221
(To be answered on the 3rd August 2015)**

SHORTAGE OF PILOTS

**2221. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS
SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR
SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN
SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of foreign pilots in Indian aviation industry at present including those working with Air India;**
- (b) whether there is a shortage of Indian pilots/type rated commanders in the aviation sector of the country especially in Air India;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to address the shortage of pilots;**
- (d) whether various airlines are giving extension to expat pilots and if so, the steps taken by the Government to send back these expat pilots and employ Indian pilots; and**
- (e) the number of co-pilots upgraded to commanders by various airlines during the last three years and the current year.**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) The detail of foreign pilots employed by various operators as on 30th June, 2015 is at Annexure 'A'

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. There is a shortage of type rated Commanders in the country due to growth in aviation industry and induction of new aircraft

in the fleet of the airlines. However, sufficient numbers of Indian co-pilots are available and employed with the airlines. These co-pilots do not possess sufficient training and experience as required to become commander on that type. As regarding Air India, they have sufficient number of commanders available for the present schedule.

To cover the shortage of type rated pilots, validation of foreign pilots is done as per Rule 45 of Aircraft Rules, 1937. Indian pilots which are inducted by airlines and are eligible to become Pilot In Command (PIC) as per the policy of airlines are being trained by them to phase out expat pilots. As a follow up, cases of Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization (FATA) pilots are processed on the basis of information furnished by each airline and only after security clearance from MHA. The strength of Foreign pilots has decreased in the subsequent years as more and more Indian co-pilots are upgraded to commanders.

The Government has restricted issue of Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization (FATA) up to 31 December 2016 on case to case basis.

(e) The details of number of co-pilots upgraded to commanders of scheduled airlines during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure 'B'.

Details of Foreign Pilots employed by Aviation Companies as on 30th June, 2015:

Sr. No	Name of Operator	No of Foreign Pilots
1.	Air India Charters Ltd.	12
2.	Jet Airways	81
3.	Spice Jet	05
4.	Blue Dart	04
5.	Indigo Airlines	96
6.	Alliance Air	07
7.	Air Asia	08
8.	Air Costa	15
9.	TATA SIA (Vistara) Airlines	04
10.	Air Pegasus	02
11.	Go Airlines	06
12.	Air India Ltd.	Nil
13.	Non Scheduled/Other Operators	46
	Total	286

The details of number of co-pilots upgraded to commanders of scheduled airlines during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Sr. No	Name of Operator	2012	2013	2014	2015 (till 28-07-2015)
1.	Air India Charters Ltd.	11	12	05	05
2.	Jet Airways	100	88	55	58
3.	Spice Jet	52	83	46	16
4.	Blue Dart	06	03	01	03
5.	Indigo Airlines	38	38	107	60
6.	Alliance Air	3	3	3	2
7.	Air Asia	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
8.	Air Costa	Nil	Nil	06	05
9.	TATA SIA (Vistara) Airlines	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Air Pegasus	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Go Airlines	05	06	08	06
12.	Air India Ltd.	32	55	37	10