

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.183
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH MAY, 2016

WOMEN PILOTS

*183. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{k k ea=h
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adequate number of aircraft for training of pilots have been inducted in the Indian Air Force (IAF), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether IAF is facing shortage of pilots including women pilots in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the remedial measures taken / being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any specialised programmes including survival techniques for women pilots, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether women fighter pilots have also been inducted in IAF, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken / being taken by the Government to bridge the gap between sanctioned and actual strength of pilots and to bring gender parity in the Air Force?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

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(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 183 FOR ANSWER ON 6.5.2016

At present adequate number of trainer aircraft are available for training of pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF). The details of trainer aircraft are as follows:

Pilatus PC-7	:	For Basic Flying Training
Kiran Mk I/IA	:	For Intermediate Fighter Trainer
Hawk 132	:	For Advanced Fighter Training.

The available strength of pilots in IAF is sufficient to meet the current operational requirements.

All pilots of IAF undergo basic survival training conducted periodically. Post trifurcation of Fighter, Transport and Helicopter streams, survival training and drills are again conducted in the respective streams. Women pilots undergo the same training imparted to the male counterparts. In addition, male & women pilots also undergo same type of specialised Jungle and Snow Survival Course.

Government has accorded approval for women to join as Short Service Commission officers in the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on experimental basis for a period of five years. As per the scheme, such women trainees undergoing Stage-I training at Air Force Academy are required to be assessed for their suitability for entry into fighter stream. Based on the suitability and willingness, 03 women trainees have been selected for Stage-II training.

Overall shortage of pilots in IAF has been reduced to 164 as on 1.2.2016. This shortage of 164 pilots is likely to be made good in next two years at the current induction rate. IAF follows a gender neutral policy for recruitment of pilots. All opportunities that are available to join the IAF are extended to both men and women candidates.
