

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:585

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006

SHORTAGE OF PILOTS /CO- PILOTS

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is huge shortage of pilots and co-pilots in the Government owned airlines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, airline-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage in the Government owned airlines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): While there is no shortage of pilots in Indian Airlines, Alliance Air has a shortage of 10 pilots each for its B 737 and ATR aircraft fleet. Air India and Air India Express have a shortage of 85 and 22 pilots respectively.

(c): Air India and Alliance Air are in the process of recruiting additional pilots to fill up the vacancies within the country as well as from the international market. Besides, Government have taken following measures to cope up with the shortage of pilots viz.

- (i) pilots are permitted to fly beyond the age of 58 years till 65 years of age under certain conditions;
- (ii) plans to increase the number of pilot pupils up to 100 at IGRUA,
- (iii) A National Institute of Flying Training is proposed to be set up at Gondia, Maharashtra and
- (iv) type rated foreign pilots are permitted to operate aircraft.