

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:597

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006

MANDATORY REQUIREMENT OF PILOTS IN COCKPIT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether on the one hand there is shortage of pilots and on the other hand thousand of pilots are still unemployed in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has recently done away with th mandatory requirement of one Indian and one foreign pilot in the cockpit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the likely impact of this decision on the Indian pilots?

Answer

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

(a):- Due to sudden growth in the aviation sector there is an increase in the demand for type rated pilots. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have estimated that there is a requirement of large number of pilots vis-a-vis that being trained annually by all Flying Training Institute in India leading to a shortage of pilots in the industry. No records regarding unemployed pilots are maintained by the Government.

(b):- The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through DGCA/Aero Club of India.

(c) to (e):- An order has been issued delgating powers to the DGCA to allow operating with two foreign pilots for a period not exceeding twelve weeks at a stretch with an Indian Pilot in the cockpit for training purpose. This would facilitate training of Indian pilots for type endorsement on the particular type of aircraft, which would enhance the employability of Indian Pilots.