

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1309

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007

SHORTAGE OF PILOTS

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**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of pilots in the public sector airlines at present, airline-wise;
- (b) whether the public sector airlines are facing acute shortage of pilots;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b) and (c) : Air India including Air India Charters Limited have 690 pilots including contract pilots. Based on the present fleet and route network, Air India has a shortfall of 118 pilots.

Indian Airlines including Alliance Air have 791 pilots including trainee pilots. While Indian Airlines has no shortage of pilots, Alliance Air, its subsidiary, has a shortfall of 2 pilots.

(d) Government have taken following measures to cope up with the shortage of pilots in general viz.

(i) Pilots are permitted to fly beyond the age of 58 years till 65 years of age subject to specified conditions;

(ii) Plans to increase the number of pilots pupils from 40 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. Besides, Air India is also recruiting Graduates in Science or Engineering as Cadet Pilots.