

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO : 96  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019)**

**UTILISATION OF NON-USED AIRPORTS**

\*96. SHRI JOSE K. MANI

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

- (a) whether India has 32 training institutes that produce about 300 pilots every year against the requirement of 800 a year with Indian carriers forced to hire expat pilots presently;
- (b) whether a Committee headed by a ex-IAF Chief Fali H. Major is working on a proposal to utilise a large number of non-operational or sparingly used airports to set up for pilot training; and
- (c) whether pilot training in the country is more expensive than many other countries because of taxation and fuel for the trainer aircraft and if so, whether Government would consider subsidising trainee pilots on merit basis?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Ques. No. 96 regarding "Utilisation of non-used airports" to be answered on 27.11.2019.

(a) As on date there are 32 Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the country. These FTOs train pilots for aviation sector for Commercial Pilot License (CPL). About 380 pilots have been trained every year for the last two years by these FTOs.

There is a shortage of type rated Commanders in the country due to growth in the aviation industry and induction of new type of aircraft in the fleet by the airlines. However, sufficient number 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. To cover the shortage of type rated Commanders the expat pilots are inducted by Indian carriers. The expat pilot license is validated by DGCA for the purpose of flying aircraft registered in India. The foreign licensed pilots are however phased out by the airlines once the co-pilots inducted by them become eligible for Commander after undergoing requisite training for the same, as per airlines policy.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) Board in its 190th Board meeting held on 5th Sept 2019, constituted a three member committee for formulating a policy on FTOs for AAI airports. The Committee is working on complete model, operational modalities and to identify airports/ aerodromes for developing them as FTOs.

(c) Pilot Training cost is based on market forces. Currently there is no proposal in Ministry of Civil Aviation to subsidize the fees of trainee pilots.

\*\*\*\*\*