

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, no such data is available in the Ministry. Employment opportunities for pilots are dependent on the growth in the sector. In recent times, the growth in the aviation sector has been sluggish due to slowdown in the economy.

(c) The total number of foreign pilots employed by various aviation companies as on 30th September, 2014 is 285.

There is shortage of type rated Commanders in the country due to growth in aviation industry and induction of new aircraft in the fleet of the airlines. However, sufficient number of co-pilots are available and employed with airlines. These co-pilots do not possess sufficient training and experience as required to become commander on that type of aircraft.

To cover the shortage of commanders and to provide experience and training to above mentioned co-pilots so that they can be upgraded to commanders, validation of foreign pilots is done as per CAR Section-7, Flight Crew Standards, Series "G" Part-II dated 01st December, 2010. The strength of foreign pilots has decreased in the subsequent years as more and more Indian co-pilots are upgraded to commanders. The Government has restricted the validation of foreign pilots up to 31st December, 2016.

Special Courts for cheque bounce cases

3334. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than four million cheque bounce cases are clogging the country's legal system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to establish Special Courts to try cheque bounce cases only; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (d) As per the information obtained by the Government from High Courts, as on 31.12.2013, there were 20,92,013 cheque bouncing cases pending in subordinate courts and 41,994 cases were pending in High Courts.

As on 31.12.2013, there were 257 number of Special Courts functioning in States / Union Territories to try cheque bounce cases.