

**Poaching of pilots and other crew members**

1714. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is proposed to regulate poaching of pilots and other crew members by different airlines in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Indian airlines are facing shortage of pilots and other crew members, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) DOCA has issued CAR Section 7, Series X, Part II on the subject "Requirement of Notice Period by the Pilots to the airlines employing them". However, no such regulation has been issued in respect of cabin crew.

(b) and (c) There is a 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 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 on that type.

To cover the shortage of type rated pilots, validation of foreign pilots is done as per rule 45 of Aircraft Rules, 1937. Indian Pilots who are inducted by airlines and are eligible to become Pilot in Command (PIC) as per the policy of airlines are being trained by them to phase out expat pilots. As a follow up cases of Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorisation (FATA) pilots are processed on the basis of information furnished by each airline and only after security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs. The strength of foreign pilots have decreased in the subsequent years as more and more Indian co-pilots are upgraded to commanders.

**New airports for increased air traffic**

1715. DR. V. MAITREYAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is planning to increase the number of airports and also to increase the frequency of flights connecting major cities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the list of new airports planned for;