

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO : 161**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022)

**NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL AIRPORTS IN THE COUNTRY**

\*161. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI

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

- (a) the number of functional airports in the country before 2014, as on today and expected by 2025;
- (b) the number of aircraft fleet, flying training institutes, and pilots before 2014, as on today and expected by 2025; and
- (c) the new airlines which likely to start operation this year ?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

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

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STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 161, REGARDING "NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL AIRPORTS IN THE COUNTRY"

(a): There were 74 airports with schedule operations in the country till 2014. At present, there are 141 operational airports including 8 heliports & 2 water aerodromes. Increasing airports capacity is a continuous process and is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and concerned private operators from time to time depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand / willingness of airlines to operate to/from such airports. The Government plans to develop/operationalize 220 airports/heliports/water aerodromes in the next five years.

(b): The aircraft fleet pre 2014 was 410 while it is 686 as on 25.07.2022. Expansion of fleet size of an airline is a commercial decision and therefore each airline decides induction of aircraft keeping in view commercial viability, traffic demand and its business plan. The aircraft fleet is expected to grow in the range of 10-12% in the coming years. Expansion of fleet is a continuous process and airlines take appropriate decision to meet the growing demands in the aviation sector.

As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), there were 40 Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) in June 2014. In 2015-16, DGCA conducted an extensive review of all FTOs which led to a closure of several FTOs that were either not functional or did not meet the specified requirements. The number of FTOs in June 2016, therefore, reduced to 29. The number of FTOs increased to 34 as on 31st March 2022. By December 2023, fifteen more FTOs are likely to be added, taking the number of FTOs in India to 49. Of these 15, four have already commenced operations during April-June 2022, two at Kalaburagi (Karnataka) and one each at Jalgaon (Maharashtra) and Lilabari (Assam).

Cumulative number of Pilots licenses issued by DGCA prior to 2014 was 28599 and stands at 40276 as on date. Demand of the Pilots by 2025 depends upon the traffic and expansion of the fleet by airlines. Given the fleet projection, it is felt that India may require around 1,000 Pilots per annum over the next five years.

(c): DGCA has recently issued Air Operator Certificate to the following airlines for undertaking scheduled/schedule commuter air transport services:

- (i) Jet Airways (India) Ltd. (Jet Airways)
- (ii) SNV Aviation Pvt. Ltd (Akasa Air)
- (iii) GSEC Monarch and Deccan Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (IndiaOne Air)

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