

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 182
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th February 2024
FLYING SCHOOLS AND PILOT TRAINING CENTRES

182. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up flying schools and pilot training centres in various parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;**
- (b) whether Government has any plans to utilize the Virtual Reality (VR) Technology and simulative technology to train pilots in the country;**
- (c) the details of the benefits likely to be accrued to the students of these pilot schools for career progression in future; and**
- (d) whether Government proposes to have any foreign collaboration in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

(a) Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) are allotted land as per their requests, on lease basis subject to availability of land.

FTO (M/s Ekviar Training Organization Pvt. Ltd.) at Salem Airport, Tamilnadu is operational from 11.07.2023.

In 2021, after a competitive bidding process, AAI awarded nine FTO slots at five airports at Belagavi (Karnataka), Jalgaon (Maharashtra), Kalaburagi (Karnataka), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) and Lilabari (Assam). As on 28th December 2023, eight of these FTO

slots are operational: two each at Jalgaon and Kalaburagi and one each at Lilabari and Belagavi and two Khajuraho.

In June 2022, after a competitive bidding process, six more FTO slots were awarded by AAI at five airports namely: Bhavnagar (Gujarat), Hubballi (Karnataka), Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh), Kishangarh (Rajasthan) and Salem (Tamil Nadu). Of these FTO slots, one at Salem is operational.

(b) The simulative technology is being used in simulators to train pilots in the country. Virtual Reality (VR) technology is futuristic.

(c) The indigenous training by FTOs to whom land is being allotted by AAI without charging them any royalty or revenue sharing, will result in cost cutting leading to competitive edge on the part of pricing. This will save expenditure on account of foreign currency and will also avoid hefty cost for lodging and air ticketing borne by students for training abroad.

The Indian Aviation industry is one of the fastest growing in the world and hence, opportunities are ample for students of these pilot schools.

(d) No such proposal currently under consideration by this Ministry.
