

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**

Rajya Sabha

STARRED QUESTION NO. : 74

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29th July 2024

FLIGHT TRAINING ORGANISATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

74. DR. FAUZIA KHAN

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

- (a) whether strategies are being developed to incentivize more flight instructors to take up positions in Flight Training Organisations (FTOs) and address the shortage of qualified personnel in the aviation training sector;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether initiatives are underway to attract more investment into the aviation training sector to improve infrastructure and expand the capacity of FTOs in the country; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 74 FOR REPLY ON 29.07.2024 REGARDING FLIGHT TRAINING ORGANISATIONS IN THE COUNTRY ASKED BY DR. FAUZIA KHAN

(a) and (b) Assistant Flight Instructor Rating (AFIR) and Flight Instructor Rating (FIR) to pilots are processed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as per requirements stipulated in Schedule- II of Aircraft Rules, 1937. DGCA has modified its regulations to empower Flying Instructors (FIs) with the right to authorise flight operations at Flying Training Organizations (FTOs). This was hitherto restricted to the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) or Deputy CFIs only.

The following changes/initiatives under consideration would assist in meeting the increasing demand of Instructors of the FTO industry:

- (i) Creation of the provision of non-flying CFI to reduce burden on CFI.**
- (ii) Examiner privilege to conduct the training for AFIR/FIR.**
- (iii) FIs empowered with the right to authorise flight operations at FTOs.**
- (iv) Frequency of AFI/FI exams to be increased from quarterly to monthly.**

(c) and (d) Currently, there are 37 FTOs in the country operating at 57 bases which are imparting flying training to cadets.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) brought out a liberalised Flying Training Organization (FTO) policy whereby the concept of airport royalty (revenue share payment by FTOs to AAI) has been abolished and land rentals have been significantly rationalized, in order to bring more and more investment in FTO sector. Accordingly, based on revised FTO policy, 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). In June 2022, under the second round of bidding, six FTO slots were awarded by AAI at five airports namely: two slots at Bhavnagar (Gujarat), and one each at Hubballi (Karnataka), Kadappa (Andhra Pradesh), Kishangarh (Rajasthan) and Salem (Tamil Nadu).

In order to attract more investment into the aviation training sector to improve infrastructure and expand the capacity of FTOs in India, AAI revised fee structure, for FTOs, while allotting land to them through tenders.

- (a) Upto 3000 hours per annum- Bid price (equal to or above INR 500 per flying hour)**
- (b) 3001-8000 hrs per annum- 80% discount to bid price**
- (c) Above 8000 hrs per annum-90% discount to bid price**

The above fee criteria of AAI will encourage FTOs to increase the size of fleet.

Further, AAI has issued Land Management circular in June 2023 through which allotment of land/space for setting up FTOs at AAI Airports to willing agencies on card rate basis for a period of 25 years. No royalty/concession fee shall be payable/applicable.
