

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1130
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th March 2025)

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS IN INDIA

1130. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE

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

- (a) the total sanctioned strength for trained Air Traffic Controller Officers (ATCOs) in the country and the current number of trained ATCOs available as on January 2025;
- (b) whether there is a shortage of ATCOs in the country presently and, if so, the steps being taken to remedy this shortage; and
- (c) whether there have been complaints received from the Air Traffic Controllers Guild regarding safety risks arising due to the Ministry's plan to unify surveillance area control and procedure area control, if so, the details of action taken on the complaints?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): The sanctioned strength of ATCOs is 5537, including the 1636 posts which have been created in the recent years, and vacancies are 1468 as on date. The recruitment of Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) to ensure smooth Air Traffic Management, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), is a regular process undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) based on operational requirements at various airports. Vacant positions are filled through direct recruitment examinations as well as departmental examinations to meet the increasing demands of the aviation sector. ATCOs are deployed at airports based on air traffic volume to ensure efficient air traffic management.

(c): On 01.11.2023, the Air Traffic Controllers Guild (I) submitted a representation stating that the unification of Surveillance Area Control & Procedural Area Control resulted in two airprox breach of separation incidents at Delhi and Ahmedabad Airports.

Of the two incidents reported by the ATC Guild, the incident at Ahmedabad

occurred on 15.09.2023, which was prior to the implementation of unified Surveillance & Procedural Area Control. The other incident was investigated by the Airprox Investigation Board (AIB). The findings of the AIB investigation did not cite any instance of unification of Surveillance Area Control and Procedural Area Control as reason for the Airprox/Incident. Accordingly, the complaint was closed.
