

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1137
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th March 2025)

BOTTLENECKS IN PILOT TRAINING IN THE COUNTRY

1137. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of delays in pilot training caused by the shortage of instructors and training aircraft in the country
- (b) the steps being taken to reduce the time required to certify instructors, currently taking 8 to 10 months, and align it with global standards
- (c) whether there are plans to increase the frequency and accessibility of Commercial Pilot License (CPL) examinations to address training delays and
- (d) the measures proposed to enhance infrastructure and streamline the certification process to expedite pilot training in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) and (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) periodically undertakes initiatives to improve pilot training, addressing the shortage of instructors and training aircraft if any, keeping in view the increasing demand for skilled pilots in the country driven by the rapid expansion of the aviation sector and stakeholder requirements.

The steps taken to reduce the time required to certify instructors are as follows:-

(i) Revision to Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR),Section 7, Series I, Part V (Issue-II, Rev 08 Dt. 03.01.2025) to ensure more robust pilot training framework. Some of the aspects incorporated in revised CAR 7/I/V are as under-

- 1)The examiner function has been delinked from the CFI/Dy. CFI role.
- 2)The responsibility for conducting checks for issue of Flight Instructor Rating has been delegated back to the industry(FTOs)
- 3)Dy. CFI with examiner privileges are now authorized to conduct AFIR Instructor training and checks.
- 4)The oral examination requirement for CFI/Dy. CFI when changing FTOs has been removed.
- 5)The cool-off period for appearing in second attempt of Oral exam for CFI, Dy.

CFI&DE has been reduced to 30 days.

(ii) The oral boards for Flight Instructors (FI) & Asst. Flight Instructors (AFI) are now being conducted every month.

(iii) DGCA has facilitated the induction of 33 aircrafts by Flying Training Organizations (FTOs) for promoting the expansion of pilot training across the country, bringing total aircraft tally to 318 in FTOs in 2024.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been taking proactive measures to enhance pilot training based on ICAO Annexure 1 & global best practices.

(c) At present, there are no plans to increase the frequency as DGCA has already increased the frequency of Commercial Pilot License (CPL) examination since December, 2021 from 04 to 12 times in a year. Therefore, examinations are being conducted on monthly basis.

CPL examinations and Pilot Training are not interdependent, and aspiring pilots can undertake either of these two separately as per their choice, to minimise the delay.

(d) The detailed requirements for setting up Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) which impart training for Commercial Pilot License (CPL) are stipulated in CAR Section 7, Series D Part I.

The steps taken to improve pilot training infrastructure and training process in India are as follows:-

(i) In order to augment the supply of trained pilots in the country, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has brought out a liberalised FTO guidelines wherein the concept of airport royalty (revenue share payment by FTOs to Airports Authority of India (AAI)) has been abolished and land rentals have been significantly rationalised.

(ii) In 2021 and 2022, AAI awarded fifteen FTO slots at ten airports, out of which eleven FTO slots are operational.

(iii) DGCA has modified its regulations to empower Flying Instructors with the right to authorise flight operations at FTOs. This was hitherto restricted to the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) or Deputy CFIs only. This will help increase the flying hours and aircraft utilisation at FTOs and lead to faster completion of the CPL requirements.

(iv) To meet the rising demand for pilot training and to facilitate expansion of pilot training infrastructure, DGCA in the year 2024 has granted approval to 4 FTOs. Currently, there are 38 FTOs operating at 58 bases in the country.
