

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1807
(To be answered on the 28th December 2017)**

SHORTAGE OF PILOTS/CABIN CREW

1807. **SHRI VENKATESH BABU T.G.
DR. UDIT RAJ**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Air India is facing huge shortage of pilots and cabin crew;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and the extent to which the crew shortage affects the functioning of the carrier;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to fill all the vacant posts and to improve its operations and profits and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the time by which all the vacant posts are likely to be filled and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to hire foreign pilots to tide over the shortage and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a)&(b) No, Madam. Air India has sufficient number of Pilots as well as Cabin Crew for its scheduled flights after the recruitment of both over the last 2 and 1/2 years on contract basis.

(c)&(d) A ban was imposed by Govt. of India for recruitment in non operational categories in erstwhile airlines prior to merger. However, in order to meet manpower requirements in merged Air India for operational categories like pilots, Cabin Crew, Flight Dispatcher, Security Agent etc., Air India has been carrying out recruitment in operational categories from time to time as per requirement. Air India has taken steps to fill a total of 482 Pilots and 1224 Cabin Crew during the last two years and the current year.

In view of the fleet augmentation, addition of new sectors and also on account of natural wastage and attrition in the category of Pilots and Cabin Crew, Air India Limited has been carrying out the recruitment processes for these categories, as and when required on contract basis.

(e) There are adequate number of pilots and cabin crew in the Air India Express Limited. It does not have and neither intends to hire any foreign pilots. However, Airline Allied Service Limited (AASL - A wholly owned subsidiary of Air India) is facing shortage of ATR commanders. Alliance Air is having a fleet of ATR 72-600 and ATR 42-320 aircraft. The commanders for these aircrafts are not available in the Indian Market. In order to meet the requirement a few expat pilots are being engaged besides, the expat pilots being provided by the aircraft leasing company along with leased aircraft under a separate pilot agreement. There is no shortage of Cabin Crew in AASL.