

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1978
(To be answered on the 31st July 2025)**

SHORTAGE OF ATCOS

1978. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the acute shortage of permanent Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) at several smaller airports across the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that at many Category-C airports, a single ATCO is being tasked with highly sensitive works such as runway clearance, radar surveillance and weather reporting thereby posing a serious risk to aviation safety and security and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement a time-bound action plan to provide full time technical human resource as per minimum standards at all airports and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): The deployment of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) based on the Directorate General of Civil Aviation - Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on Watch Duty Time Limitations (WDTL) which is as per international norms and also as per air traffic volume at airports so as to ensure safe and efficient air traffic management. Aviation safety is maintained through optimal utilization of available manpower in accordance with the extant norms and standards.

The recruitment of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) is a continuous process undertaken by AAI in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by DGCA. With a total sanctioned strength of 5537 ATCOs, AAI assesses the requirement for ATCOs from time to time based on the operational needs at various airports. The vacancies are filled through direct recruitment as well as departmental examinations.
