

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1209
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
AIRLINK TO BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGES
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to airlink Buddhist pilgrimages to promote tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any scheme to airlink Sarnath, Kushinagar and Lumabeni in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if not, the reasons the therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): At present, Indian Airlines operates regular scheduled flights to Patna, Varanasi and Lucknow, which are gateways to places of Buddhist pilgrimage. However, Airlines are free to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines, which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.