

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3431
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005
HELICOPTER SERVICES IN NE REGION
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of places in the North East Region provided with the helicopter services;
- (b) whether the helicopters being used for ferrying passengers in Lakshadweep happens to be more than 15 years old; and
- (c) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to replace the old helicopters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a):- In the North East region, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has provided helicopters on long term lease to Government of Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. The regular passenger services are being run under the aegis of the respective State Governments as per their requirements.

(b) and (c):- Lakshadweep Administration has been provided with Dauphin N helicopter. As per the manufacturer's specifications, there are no limits to the calendar life of the Dauphin type helicopters as long as the operator follows the recommended maintenance schedules and procedures. As a generic economic life, Dauphin can be operated for 35 years or 1,00,000 flight hours and PHHL helicopters are well within this span both in terms of years and flight hours.