

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:413
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006
HELICOPTER SERVICES .
Singh Shri Dushyant;Singh Smt. Pratibha

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to introduce small aircraft and helicopter services particularly between the places of tourist interests in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to implement the said plan?

Answer

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

(a),(b) and (c):- A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a),(b) and (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 413 FOR ANSWER ON 24.8.2006 REGARDING HELICOPTER SERVICES.

(a),(b) and (c):- To facilitate operation by small aircraft/ helicopters, aircraft/ helicopters of less than 80 seats, operated by domestic scheduled operators have been exempted from landing charges. Concessions have also been provided to such aircraft on Route Navigation Facility Charges (RNFC). Government has also formulated Route Dispersal Guidelines to ensure that scheduled airlines operate 10% of the capacity they operate on Category-I routes (which includes Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram) on category-II routes consisting of North East Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. At least 50% of the capacity deployed in category-I routes are deployed on category-III routes. However, actual operations to specific places are decided by airlines depending upon traffic demand and commercial viability.

Amongst the public sector airlines, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air are operating through 52 domestic stations and Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHHL) provides services to places like Kedarnath and Badrinath. PHHL are also providing helicopters on lease to State Governments of Meghalaya Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Administration to run regular helicopter service.