

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1465  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007  
HELICOPTER SERVICES TO TOURIST PLACES  
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is any proposal to introduce helicopter services to make smooth access to religious places and tourist sites located in the remote areas of the countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c):- Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. (PHHL) operates passenger services from Augustmuni to Kedarnath & Badrinath Dham twice in a year (May-June & September to October). They have also provided helicopters on a wet lease basis to private party since 2005 to carry pilgrims to Amarnath during yatra season. A five seater helicopter had also been provided to a private organisation in November, 2005 for carrying pilgrims to Maa Ambaji and Jain Temple, Junagarh, Gujarat.

PHHL also plans to further connect to important adjoining tourists/religious places in Uttaranchal such as Ghadharia, Hemkund Sahib etc. subject to necessary permissions. They have also submitted fresh proposals to Government of Nagaland for lease of helicopter on long term lease basis for connecting important places.

Deccan Aviation Ltd. is also operating regular helicopter service from Katra to Sanjichat (Vaishno Devi Shrine).

Some other non-scheduled operators also operate seasonally to other religious places such as Kedarnath, Amarnath shrines, etc.