

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2527
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014
AIRPORTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
Sharma Shri Ram Swaroop

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether civilian flights are not operating to/from Bhuntar airport in Kullu district and Jubbarhatti airport in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether both the airports mostly remain closed due to bad weather, fog and snowfall;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct a survey for setting up of new airports in Mandi, Kullu and Shimla districts in the State; and
- (e) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr. Mahesh Sharma)

- (a) & (b) Alliance Air is operating six flights in a week from Bhuntar Airport in Kullu district and there are no flight operations from Jubbarhatti airport in Shimla at present. Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of RDGs issued by the Government.
- (c) Both are Visual Flight Rules (VFR) airports and hence sometimes flight operations are not permissible due to bad weather/fog in winter.
- (d) There is no proposal to conduct a survey for setting up of new airports in Mandi, Kullu and Shimla districts in the State.
- (e) Does not arise.