

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3345
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
CRASH OF HELICOPTER
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a helicopter carrying Amarnath pilgrims crashed near Ganderbal in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details of casualties;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the cause of accident;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the policy of the Government in granting permission to private helicopters and small aircraft?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) and (b):- Yes, Sir. A Bell 407 helicopter VT-FJK operated by Jammu and Kashmir Government met with an accident at Ganderbal, Srinagar at approximately 0730 hours IST on 5th August, 2003. Five persons including the pilot of the helicopter died in the accident and one passenger received serious injuries.

(c) and (d):- Yes, Sir. The accident is being investigated under Rule 71 of Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(e):- Regarding operation of aircraft/helicopter by a private owner; at the stage of acquiring an aircraft/helicopter, the owner has to decide whether he wants to use it for private or for hire and reward purposes. A private aircraft/helicopter can be operated within the country provided the same is having valid Certificate of Airworthiness and other safety requirements of certification and operation are met. For using the aircraft/helicopter for hire and reward purposes, the owner must obtain Non-scheduled Operator's Permit in accordance with Civil Aviation Requirement apart from having valid Certificate of Airworthiness and meet all the requirements spelt out in the approved Operations Manual.