

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:937

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS BY SAHARA AIRLINES

BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH;JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have granted permission to Sahara Airlines to start its international flights;
- (b) if so, the date on which the said permission was granted;
- (c) whether some other domestic airlines have also requested the Government for permission to operate international flights;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether Air Sahara has announced flights to Sri Lanka;
- (f) if so, the points of origin and termination of these flights;
- (g) whether Air Sahara flight to Colombo on November 08, 2003 was not cleared by DGCA; and
- (h) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f): No private airlines, including Sahara Airlines, have so far been granted permission to start international flights. However action is at hand to give effect to the Joint Statement issued during the recent visit of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, which provides for operations of private domestic airlines to Sri Lanka.

(g) and (h): The non-revenue chartered flight proposed by Sahara Airlines on 8.11.2003 was not cleared as it did not meet the required advance notice period of seven working days for operation of such flights. However, Sahara Airlines were allowed to operate this flight on 14.11.2003.