

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4624
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF SARAS
Hamza Shri T.K.

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CSIR is undertaking a major project for the development of a commercial aircraft named "SARAS";
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether CSIR has analyzed adequately the commercial potential of the aircraft before investing in the development; and
- (d) if so, the details of the market size for such type of aircraft ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)&(b) : Yes Sir. CSIR is undertaking a major project on a multi role Light Transport Aircraft named "SARAS", designed to carry 14 passengers, and a maximum cruising speed of about 550 km/hr, upto an altitude of 30,000 ft. It is capable of operating from short and semi prepared runways and in hot and humid climate. The aircraft had its successful maiden test flight on 29th May, 2004 and the formal inaugural flight took place on 22nd August, 2004.

(c)&(d) : Several preliminary market surveys were conducted and the latest survey indicates that in the feeder aircraft role, there is an expected cumulative demand of about 50 aircraft by 2007-08. A separate survey was also carried out, as a part of this study, for the North Eastern region of the country, which predicted a demand for 18 small aircraft in this region by the year 2005. The demand is expected to be of about 150 aircrafts in the next ten years, taking into account its various version like cargo, ambulance , aerial survey, executive aircraft and military roles. It is likely that the potential for SARAS will increase in future as Civil Aviation has grown by more than 20% annually in recent years.