

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:875
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2009
AIR CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-Eastern Council has represented to the Ministry to direct domestic airlines to provide more intra-connectivity in the highly inaccessible region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) and (b):- For traveling to/from North Eastern States Alliance Air under an MOU with North East Council (NEC) commenced scheduled operations in the North East Region w.e.f. 2.1.2003.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements for scheduled regional air transport service with a view to promote air connectivity within a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and Tier III cities and between specific regions. There are four regions identified as North, South, West, East/ North-East coinciding with the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) as defined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

The Government has issued initial No Objection Certificate (NOC) to operate Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services to M/s. Zav Airways for North East/Eastern Region.

The airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines (RDG) issued by Government. As per RDG, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in Category II at least 10% of the capacity deployed by them on routes in Category I and of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category II routes, at least 10% would be deployed on services or segments thereof operated exclusively within the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The operator is also required to deploy in Category III, at least 50% of the capacity deployed on routes in Category I.