

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1191  
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012  
REGIONAL AIRLINES  
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether despite the growth in civil aviation sector during the last several years, the industry has failed to reach the common man;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to encourage setting up of regional airlines;
- (d) if so, whether the Government also proposes to set up heliport in each district of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

a) and (b):- Total flights/week on domestic network has been increased from 8724 in year 2006 to 12107 in year 2011. The number of airports operating Scheduled Air Services have increased from 50 in year 2000 to 82 in 2011. Total domestic passengers carried by all scheduled and non-scheduled operators have increased from 362.37 lakhs in 2006-07 to 606.63 lakhs in 2011 (upto January, 2011 to December, 2011). Over the last 7 years with reduction in airfares and introduction of new routes, air travel has become affordable for the common man. This fact is reflected by the growth in the air traffic witnessed in India during 2004-05 to 2010-11 which has grown at the rate of 16.5% with domestic traffic clocking a cumulative annual growth rate of 18.5% and international traffic at 14% in the said period.

Operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and flights are being operated by concerned airlines on the basis of commercial viability subject to adherence of Route Dispersal Guidelines. Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

(c):- Government has already introduced a category of Regional Airlines. A Civil Aviation Requirements Section 3, Series `C`, Part VIII has already been issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in this regard, which is available on the website of DGCA. M/s. Freedom Aviation, M/s. Indus Airways, M/s. Religare Aviation, M/s. Air Pegasus, M/s. ABC Training & Aviation Pvt. Ltd., M/s LEPL Projects Ltd., M/s. Deccan Charters Ltd. and M/s. Karina Airlines International Ltd. have been granted initial No Objection Certificate to operate Scheduled Air Transport Regional Services in different regions of the country.

(d)and (e):- There is no such proposal at present.