

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2166

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

AIR INDIA AND PAWAN HANS IN RESCUE OPERATIONS

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Pawan Hans have participated in the rescue operations for the victims of flood affected areas in Uttarakhand in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of additional flights and sorties arranged by these national carriers during the said operation; and

(d) the number of flood affected persons rescued by Air India and Pawan Hans Ltd. during the said operation?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) and (b): The following efforts were made by Air India for rescue operations of victims of flood affected area of Uttarakhand:-

i) Special Fares with 50% discount were offered on Pan-India basis for passengers embarking ex-Dehradun.

ii) Resource mobilisation carried to strengthen the Air India team at Dehradun including setting up of Help Desk counter at Dehradun Airport.

iii) Arrangements made for providing Special assistance & Lowest instant purchase fares to groups arriving from Uttarakhand and embarking from Delhi in coordination with Resident Commissioners of various states.

iv) Based upon requirement, capacity increased to / from Dehradun by change of aircraft from CRJ (70 seats) to A319 (122 seats)

v) Regular communication with Resident Commissioners of various states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala etc. for providing Charter flights on Special rates.

Pawan Hans had participated in the rescue operations for the victims of flood affected areas in Uttarakhand. The details are Annexed.

(c) and (d): Air India operated two charter flights, one, on the request of Government of West Bengal to Kolkata on 27th June, 2013, and second, on the request of Government of Madhya Pradesh to Bhopal on 02nd July, 2013. The number of flood affected passengers who travelled on these two flights is 258.

Pawan Hans arranged 446 additional flights and sorties during the said operation and rescued 1046 affected persons.