

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3129

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013

HELIPADS IN HILLY AREAS

Maharaj Shri Satpal;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the crisis faced by the victims of natural calamity which hit Uttarakhand recently as the rescue and relief works could not be carried out due to lack of suitable helipads and airports in that State;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan to construct airports and helipads in remote hilly areas and tourist places in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time by which the Government proposed to implement the said plan;and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): Air India, Pawan Hans Limited, besides Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force and private operators did participate in the relief and rescue operation in Uttarakhand during the recent calamity. The following efforts were made by Air India and Pawan Hans Ltd. for relief and 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 mobilization 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 A 319 (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.
- (vi) Air India operated two chartered 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 2nd July, 2013. The number of flood affected passengers who travelled on these two flights is 258.
- (vii) Pawan Hans Ltd. arranged five helicopters which carried out 446 sorties during the rescue and relief operation and rescued 1046 persons and dropped 6990 kg. of food/medicines.

(b) (c) & (d): Government has formulated the Greenfield Airport Policy, 2008, outlining the guidelines for setting up of Greenfield airports/heliports across the country.