

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4297
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014
AIR SERVICES TO KARGIL
Khan Shri Hassan

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air Service between Kargil and Jammu was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on 7th January, 2013;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Air Service has not been operated thereafter and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken up to provide continuous air connectivity to Kargil?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Inagural flight to Kargil was operated on 07th January, 2013 by Air Mantra. However, the schedule operation to Kargil is yet to commence by Air Mantra. Air Mantra had informed that their regional airline project is being revamped and reevaluated. The operator had sought more time to complete their internal evaluation, set their policies for scheduling, acquisition and mergers which are in offing. As on date, no scheduled domestic carrier is operating schedule flight to/from Kargil airport.

(d): To achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need of air transport services of different regions of the country, the Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG). In accordance with these RDG, all Scheduled Airlines who operate on Category-I (Metro) routes are required to deploy 10% of the capacity deployed on Category-I routes, on Category- II routes. Category-II routes are those connecting stations in North East region, Jammu & Kashmir (which includes Kargil), Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. Possibilities to start continuous air connectivity to Kargil are explored, however it is up to the Airlines to provide the air services to the specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.