

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1349
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2014
AIR CONNECTIVITY TO MOUNTAINOUS AND BACKWARD REGIONS
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any cost benefit analysis for the airports located in mountainous and backward regions of the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcomes thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by the country to provide air-connectivity to these regions?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a)&(b): No, Madam. However, Airports located in mountainous and backward regions are established to meet socio-economic considerations and strategic needs and further to enable remote area connectivity. (c): Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.