

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1277
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
HELICOPTER SERVICES
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Helicopter Services are sanctioned only for the difficult areas where connectivity is very poor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government provides some subsidy for the operation cost of such heli- copter services; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. In order to provide air connectivity to difficult areas of North East region with the rest of India, helicopter services are presently in operation in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Mizoram. The helicopter services are also in operation in Lakshadweep, and Andaman & Nicobar Island for maintaining inter-island connectivity.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Home Affairs provides 75% subsidy after adjusting recovery from passengers, for operation of Helicopter services in the above-mentioned six North Eastern States.

As regards operation of helicopter services in Lakshadweep, the Government of India provide subsidy for meeting the cost of hiring/chartering helicopter from Pawan Hans Limited. The subsidy is limited to 90% for the local population/employees of U.T of Lakshadweep and 75% for the domestic travelers. No subsidy is given to foreign travelers visiting the island.

As regards Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the helicopter subsidy is limited to 90% for the islanders, medical cases, Government employees posted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and their family members. 75% subsidized tickets are offered to non-Islanders, tourists & Government servants travelling on duty.