

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1885
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015
AIR CONNECTIVITY TO REMOTE AREAS
Chandrappa Shri B.N.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering a proposal for providing viability gap funding to encourage airlines to provide air connectivity to remote areas in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the new route policy for remote areas is being opposed by certain private airlines and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the new policy makes it mandatory for the airlines to match the capacity deployed on certain routes with that deployed in the rest of the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Madam. At present Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is not under consideration of the Government of India. However, DONER provides VGF to Alliance Air for operations in the North-East states. In addition, MHA provides VGF for helicopter operations in the North East, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep.
- (b) Draft revised Route Dispersal Guidelines were discussed with stakeholder airlines. The views expressed by the airlines are under consideration before a final view is taken in the matter.
- (c) No, Madam. The draft new air connectivity policy will require domestic schedule airlines to deploy only a part of their capacity in routes in remote, intra remote and regional areas.