

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:599

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014

AIR TRAVEL FACILITIES TO SECURITY FORCES

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has provided air travel facility to the Central Armed Police Forces engaged in fighting the naxalites and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether in view of the rising naxal violence in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the Government proposes to provide helicopter service to help the said forces and to evacuate the persons injured in naxal attacks;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any directives and guidelines to the States for setting up air-strips and helipads to facilitate air travel and to combat naxal attacks;
- (e) if so, whether the State Governments has taken any action as per the said directives and guidelines; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): At present, a total number of 11 helicopters of the Indian Air Force and the Border Security Force have been deployed to provide substantive air support to the troops engaged in counter-LWE operations. These helicopters are available for use as per operational requirements in all Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States. The availability of helicopters acts as an important force multiplier and helicopters are extremely useful to the security forces in casualty evacuation and movement of reinforcements in times of need.

(d) to (f): In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in dealing with the problem of LWE, funds are also released to the State Governments of LWE affected States to cater to critical infrastructure needs in the affected areas under the Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS). This scheme, inter-alia, envisages construction of secure camping grounds and helipads at strategic locations in remote and interior areas. The Special Infrastructure Scheme for the LWE affected States (SIS), started in the 11th Five Year Plan (FYP) Period, has been continued in the 12th FYP Period with an added objective of funding infrastructure, training, weaponry, equipment & vehicles for upgradation and filling critical infrastructure gaps of Special Forces of the LWE affected States. The guidelines for upgradation of Special Forces framed under the SIS also contain provision for helipads. An amount of Rs. 100.68 crore has been released to the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 (up to 30.6.2014). The State Governments have given an undertaking to abide by the Guidelines for upgradation of Special Forces framed under the SIS for completing various approved works relating to upgradation and filling of critical infrastructure gaps of their Special Forces including construction of helipads. Many helipads have been constructed near security force establishments in LWE affected States under the SIS Scheme.