

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:704
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014
EXPENSES ON HELICOPTER SERVICES
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the case of reimbursement of 75 per cent of the expenses on helicopter services in inaccessible areas i.e. subsidised helicopter services in Himachal Pradesh where the geographical and topographical conditions is similar to the North-Eastern States is pending with the Government;
- (b) If so, the details in this regard.
- (c) the reasons for keeping the said case pending so far; and
- (d) the time by which the said case is likely to be cleared?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): As decided by the North Zonal Council in a meeting held in Chandigarh on July 13, 2012, a Joint Working Group (JWG) was constituted by the Inter State Council Secretariat, MHA to consider the helicopter services for remote and inaccessible areas in Himachal Pradesh. As recommended by JWG, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh submitted the proposal for reimbursement of 75% of the expenses on the subsidised helicopter services in an inaccessible area of Himachal Pradesh to this Ministry in August, 2013. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has given its comments supporting the proposal. The Office of the Director General of Civil Aviation however has desired the State Government to formulate the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for each routes and helipad and submit the same for its approval. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has been requested to submit the SOPs and also to give the updated financial implications. Further processing of the proposal, budgeting for same and setting the timeline accordingly will be incumbent on the receipt of SOPs and updated financial implications from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.