

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:378

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2014

SEAPLANE SERVICES

Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.;Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the potential to develop and promote seaplane services in the Islands of Lakshadweep & Andaman & Nicobar and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to start seaplane services in Coastal and Island territories of the country, if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals from various States/UTs including Lakshadweep for introducing seaplane services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. ;

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 378 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2014 REGARDING SEAPLANE SERVICES TABLED BY SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL , MP AND PROF SAUGATA ROY, MP.

(a) Pawan Hans Limited, a Public Sector Enterprise of Ministry of Civil Aviation conducted a feasibility study in 2008 in Lakshadweep and another team in August 2012 to study and finalize the modalities, infrastructure, and other facilities required for introduction of Seaplane services and carried out a preliminary survey of Kavaratti and Agatti. Further, Lakshadweep Administration floated Expression of Interest (EOI) dated 12.12.2012 inter-alia inviting offers to conduct a feasibility study of all Islands for operation of the Seaplane.

Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) also carried out the feasibility study to commence Seaplane operations in Andaman & Nicobar Islands in 2009 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Andaman & Nicobar Administration on 9th April, 2010 for Seaplane operations in Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a pilot project for an initial period of six month to connect Port Blair and Havelock Island. Accordingly the services commenced on 19th January, 2011 and continued till May, 2011. Thereafter, M/s. Maritime Energy Heli Air Services Private Limited (MEHAIR) signed a contract with Andaman & Nicobar Administration for providing similar services.

(b) Government of India does not operate seaplane services. However, State Governments/ Union Territory Administration / any authorized agency can start operations of seaplane after requisite approval(s) from the concerned authorities as per extant rules and regulation in this matter.

(c) & (d): Although no proposal for starting seaplane service has been received, Government of Andhra Pradesh made a request to Government of India to organize a stakeholders meeting in November, 2013 to sensitize them about seaplanes operations in various water bodies in Andhra Pradesh. However, the said meeting could not take place due to pre-occupation of the officers of Andhra Pradesh on account of affairs relating to bifurcation of the State.