

Title: Need to connect Sikkim by air – laid.

SHRI BHIM DAHAL (SIKKIM) : Sikkim has been fast developing as a tourist destination. It has tallest Indian peaks and majestic mountains, lakes, flora-fauna, trekking routes and eminent centres of Mahayana Buddhism.

It is border State and one can have panoramic view of China from Nathula pass. The Government of India has been kind enough to grant permission to the domestic tourists to visit places which were prohibited earlier. They can now go well up to India-China border.

But the absence of air service has been a great bottleneck for the State. Therefore, till such time an airstrip is ready, a 15-16 seater helicopter service may be given to the State with adequate Central subsidy.