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Title : Need to increase the quota of tonnage for airlifting essential Supplies and number of civilians in service aircrafts to Ladakh and Leh regions to meet the unforeseen emergent requirement.

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (LADAKH): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Defence Minister to the problem being faced by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council of Leh and Kargil, the civil administration of the two district in my Constituency and the general public at large due to inadequate tonnage allotted by the Defence Ministry to enable them to lift essential supplies to meet the unforeseen emergent requirements. Whereas we are grateful to the Defence Ministry for cooperation extended by them to the civil administration and the local population in times of need, yet this needs to be strengthened in strategic and sensitive border like Ladakh to maintain harmonious relations between Defence forces and civilians. As Ladakh remains isolated and cut off from rest of the country for more than six months in a year, the administration there and the local population, have to depend on Armed forces for lifting essential supplies and also airlifting of civilians in service aircrafts especially from Srinagar to Kargil and Nubra to Chandigarh. I would, therefore, earnestly request the Defence Minister to kindly increase tonnage for airlifting essential supplies and passengers and pass on instructions to airlift civilians as per past practice, which I understand, is suspended for the moment.

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