

Air services in Himachal Pradesh

†1107. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airports in Himachal Pradesh where Government of the State has announced on 12 January, 2013 to commence air services;
- (b) the details of companies with whom agreement has been signed to commence these air services;
- (c) whether State Government of Himachal Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Central Government for betterment and extension of air services in Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) No such proposal/information has been received from Government of Himachal Pradesh in Ministry of Civil Aviation.

However, Pawan Hans has provided one brand new Mi-172 helicopter on long-term lease of 5 years to Government of Himachal Pradesh *w.e.f.* 3 January, 2013 for dedicated utilization as required by the State Government.

Withdrawn airlines for Tezpur and Lilabari

1108. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that flight services of Air India and private sector airlines have been withdrawn for Tezpur and Lilabari Airports in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons behind such steps taken, when these two airports are the only airport on the entire North Bank of Brahmaputra important for the Arunachal Pradesh also besides Lilabari Airport is one of the remote and rural airport in the country, while Tezpur is significant in terms of defence views apart from civil purposes; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) when does the flight operation for these two airports in Assam are likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) No private sector airlines are operating from Tezpur and Lilabari in Assam. Details of flights withdrawn by Alliance Air from Lilabari and Tezpur are as under:—

Route	Date of withdrawal
Lilabari/Dibrugarh	26.05.2011
Kolkata/Guwahati/Lilabari/Guwahati/Kolkata	01.01.2013
Kolkata/Silchar/Tezpur/Silchar/Kolkata	01.01.2013
Guwahati/Jorhat/Tezpur/Guwahati	01.01.2013
Guwahati/Lilabari/Tezpur/Guwahati	01.01.2013

(c) Alliance Air has withdrawn flights on some of the routes including the above due to commercial unviability.

(d) Operations in domestic sector have been deregulated and flights are being operated by concerned airlines on the basis of commercial viability subject to adherence of Route Dispersal Guidelines. Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including north-east regions. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with these Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Third least safe airline

1109. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Air India is world's third least safe airline as per a survey published in a newspaper; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps that Government is taking to make the airlines safe;

(c) the impact of the news that was published on the basis of survey regarding the safety of the passengers in the airlines; and