

**Frequency of flights to Dharamshala and Kullu**

26. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to increase the frequency of flights to Dharamshala and Kullu especially during the peak tourist seasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to subsidise airfare and airfreight charges to Dharamshala and Kullu on the pattern of North Eastern Region (NER); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, it is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As per the approved Winter Schedule 2014, Alliance Air is operating (i) 07 flights per week on Delhi-Dharmasala route VIV (ii) 06 flights per week on Delhi-Kullu route VN and (iii) Spice Jet is operating 07 flights per week on Delhi-Dharmasala route V/V.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Air fares are not fixed by the Government as they are determined by the airline based on interplay of market forces. Under the provision of Sub rule (1) of Rule 135, Aircraft Rules 1937, airlines are free to fix reasonable tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including the cost of operation, characteristic of service, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff.

**Transfer of routes to private airlines**

27. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign and domestic routes Air India and Indian Airlines transferred to the private airlines during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for transferring these routes; and

(c) whether such transfer affected the financial performance of the Air India and Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. No foreign or domestic routes of Air India have been transferred to private airlines in the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.