

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 813
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th July 2015)

REGULAR AIR SERVICE BETWEEN NEW DELHI AND SHIMLA

813. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the trial run of a 42-seater plane has been conducted at Shimla's airport at Jubbarhatti by the national carrier Air India's subsidiary, Alliance Air if so, the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether Government proposes to restart regular service between New Delhi and Shimla; and
- (c) if so, the time by which regular air service is likely to be commenced between New Delhi and Shimla?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) : Yes Sir. Alliance Air (a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India) conducted a proving flight to Shimla on 04th February 2015. With regard to the same, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has made some safety observations.

(b) and (c) : No scheduled airline is operating from Shimla airport presently due to various operational, topographical and security constraints including reduction in basic strip of runway length due to hilly terrain, inadequate runway end safety area, non-availability of refueling facilities, absence of Viability gap funding by the State Government. etc. Airport Authority of India has completed runway re-carpeting work and has undertaken widening of runway including prevention of soil erosion for operation of ATR-42 type of aircraft. However, it is upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand, commercial viability, provision of Viability gap Funding by the State Government, etc.
