

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1609

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026

HELICOPTER TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

1609. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA

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

- (a) the number of licensed helicopter tourism operators in the States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim and annual sorties operated by them for tourism in each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the impact of helicopter noise vibration and emissions on wildlife and alpine ecosystems has been assessed and the findings thereof; and
- (c) whether altitude restrictions, no-fly zones and seasonal bans have been prescribed for helicopter tourism in eco-sensitive mountain areas and the enforcement mechanism for the same?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c) The operation of helicopter tourism services in the country is demand-driven and undertaken by operators engaged by the respective State Governments in accordance with the terms and conditions of their contracts and the applicable regulatory requirements, including the requisite approvals from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

DGCA ensures the safety of helicopter operations by regulating helicopter airworthiness and flight operations. DGCA regulations address only aviation safety and do not impose any specific restrictions on helicopter operations in eco-sensitive mountain areas. However, regulation prohibits flight below 500 feet above ground level, except during take-off or landing.
