

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2040
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2018**

PROMOTION OF HELI-TOURISM

2040. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government encourages heli-tourism in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the tourist places in the country wherein heli-tourism already exists, State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to involve, promote and establish heli-tourism services in Madurai of Tamil Nadu to cover/link the tourism potential of places around Madurai; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

(a) and (b): Development and promotion of tourism destinations and products including Heli-tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under relevant schemes to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development of tourism infrastructure including helipads, heliports, airstrips, etc. which would lead to the promotion of Heli-tourism in the country.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has informed that Pawan Hans Ltd. a Government of India Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation is providing helicopters to State Governments/Union Territories for promotion

of Heli-tourism. Presently, Pawan Hans is providing helicopters in the following States/Union Territories:

- (i) Himachal Pradesh – Shimla – Chandigarh – Shimla in association with State Government of Himachal Pradesh.**
- (ii) Sikkim - Bagdogra - Gangtok – Bagdogra in association with Government of Sikkim.**
- (iii) UT of Daman & Diu – in association with UT Administration of Daman & Diu.**
- (iv) UT Administration of Lakshadweep for inter-Island helicopter services.**
- (v) UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar for inter-Island helicopter services.**
- (vi) Guwahati - Shillong – Guwahati in Meghalaya State.**

Besides above, Pawan Hans and other helicopter operators also provide seasonal helicopter joy rides in various states to boost Heli-tourism.

(c) and (d): Pawan Hans Ltd. had carried out feasibility study in association with the State Government of Tamil Nadu for introduction of helicopter services to provide Heli-tourism in Tamil Nadu State including Madurai and the preliminary report in this regards has been submitted to the State Government of Tamil Nadu.
